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Washtenaw Jewish News
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
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JEWISH NEWS

June 2023 **Sivan/Tammuz 5783** **Volume XXIII Number 10** **FREE**

Andy Schiff's art featured at JCC's Amster Gallery

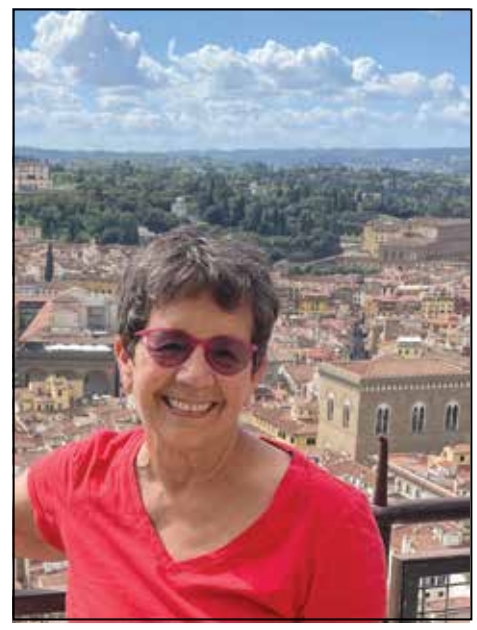
By Drew Coel, Marketing and Program Associate at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

The Amster Gallery at the Ann Arbor JCC continues to feature the work of local artists for all in the community to enjoy!

Starting on June 6, the JCC will showcase the beautiful abstract acrylic paintings of Ann Arbor artist Andy Schiff. Andy's work has been featured around Ann Arbor and the state of Michigan, from the Ann Arbor District Library to the gallery at the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art in Lansing. Join us at the JCC for Meet the Artist on June 15 from 6–8 p.m. Come explore Andy's work while enjoying light refreshments.

Andy was born and raised in Detroit till 1972 when she and Steve married.

In Andy's words, "My first encounter with the arts was as a weaver. I loved the tactile quality of the yarns and the physical effort of producing fabric art. But, moving to Israel for nine years and living in a small kibbutz apartment necessitated giving up the loom.



I left the states just short of completing my B.A. On my return I enrolled in the Fine Arts department at EMU and obtained my BFA in 2004. There was a long, long period of artistic stagnation after the death of our son Yossi, in 2005. But, finally, the urge to paint returned, and the enjoyment."

"These past few years have been my most productive," Andy says. "Even the COVID pandemic had an upside. Surprisingly, the isolation was a boom for my creativity. Some of the paintings in this exhibit are an expression of my recent travels to Italy and Costa Rica. Others, simply an outlet for my love of color and abstract design. Enjoy."

Andy's artwork will be for sale at the JCC until the exhibit closes on July 21. Proceeds from sales will be donated to Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. We hope to see you at Meet the Artist on June 15! ■

Coming home: a new HDS tradition

By Lisa P. Bernstein, HDS Judaic Studies teacher

What happens when you get graduating high school seniors who are Hebrew Day School (HDS) alumni together with graduating HDS fifth graders? Lots of reflection and conversation about what has changed and what has remained the same, as well as some good advice and so many great memories.

Karla Goldman, HDS board member, arranged for six alumni who graduated from HDS in 2016 to return to their fifth grade classroom on May 2. After some brief icebreakers where everyone talked about their pets and extracurricular activities, the high school seniors looked around and talked about some of the changes in their old classroom. The most noticeable was that their beloved General Studies teacher, HaMorah Carol Gannon, had retired. They noticed the "living room" with a rug and comfortable chairs, and the new and calming color scheme.

There were also many points of continuity. As they shared favorite HDS memories, a

12th grader and a fifth grader noted that they had both done research and learned about the Yemenite Jewish community. Another pair reflected on having loved working on their family history albums. Other favorite memories included the first days of school, learning about simple machines in an engineering unit, and seeing other students' projects at the annual Academic Fair.

The high school seniors shared how being Jewish has been part of their lives since they left HDS. They shared that they continue to love family holiday celebrations — especially Passover and Chanukah — Havdalah at summer camp, and Shabbat. Dylan Pacernick noted that when attending secular schools, "you get to take off for the High Holidays." That same advantage can also be a challenge — having to do makeup work after missing classes during those holidays. They also talked about other challenges that they've faced as Jews. Joey Lopez talked about hearing people make jokes about Jews and advised the younger children to "shut it down"

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From the Editor

Pluralism of Necessity

Clare Kinberg

During the final week of Counting the Omer, I've been dusting and reviewing my home library. Accumulated over decades of Jewish feminist and anti-racist publishing, my

books are an awe-inspiring collection.

While I was cleaning, I used my new air pods to listen to a "bonus" episode "A Plurality of Necessity" of the Judaism Unbound podcast, recorded and produced in 2019 by Rena Yehuda Newman, an editor, writer and cartoonist and a non-binary transman. Rena Yehuda interviewed several of their friends asking if, why, and how Jews who stretch and challenge traditional concepts of politics and identity participate in Jewish communities. What love and necessity brings Jews whose deepest convictions abhor nation states to pray where there are flags on the bima? How does a non-binary person pray in a synagogue that uses a mehitza? What causes a Jew whose closest family survived the Holocaust to rarely enter Jewish spaces, or to enter some Jewish spaces but not others?

The podcast includes questions for consideration: "For some, being part of a Jewish community feels like a necessity and would only opt-out under extreme circumstances, while others would opt-in to join a community only if the options were particularly appealing. Do you feel Jewish community is opt-in or opt-out?" And: "Do you see yourself as connected or obligated even to the most extreme parts of the Jewish world?"

Last week I had to ask myself, if, how and why I feel connected to the Jews who, as Rabbi Arik Ascherman reported, uprooted and burned 250 olive trees on Shabbat near the Palestinian town of Turmos Aya in the central West Bank.

Today, it is enough to ask the questions. ■

Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, ***248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org***

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, ***734-445-1910, aarecon.org***

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, ***bethisrael-aa.org***

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, templebethemeth.org

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org

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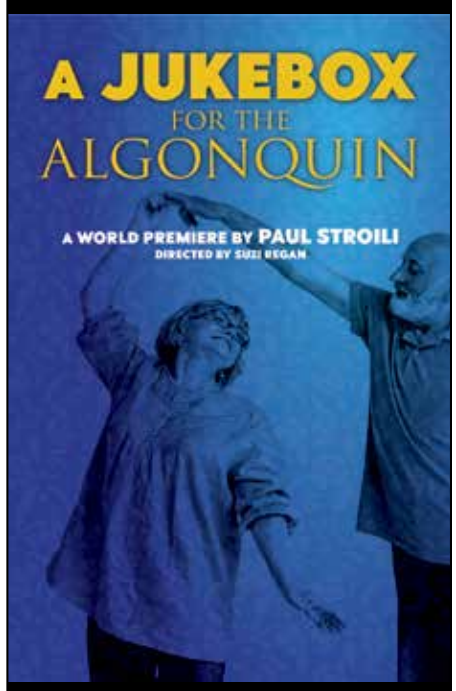

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Isaac Meadow plays benefit concert for Ukraine

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

Isaac Meadow, a member of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, will present a humanitarian aid benefit concert for Ukraine on Thursday, June 15, at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, at 6 p.m. The concert will feature music by multiple composers, played upon the piano and the organ in the church's main sanctuary. Admission will be by free-will donation.

The concert will be performed as a "mitzvah project" — a community service associated with Isaac's bar mitzvah. Isaac was inspired to take on this particular effort by the confluence of compassion, love of music, and familial ties to Ukraine.

At the age of five, when Isaac first received money as a present, he wanted to give it away to a person in need he met in the streets. In the following years, he has remained empathetic to people in distress, particularly the homeless. When Isaac started following the news of the Russian

invasion of Ukraine, he knew he wanted to act. "I was horrified," he said, "particularly by the violence against children children being killed or forced from their homes." A benefit concert, he thought, might be a way for him to raise money to help.

Isaac has a long-standing love of music. He has studied the piano since the age of five under the tutelage of Renée Robbins, and recently has started to study the organ with Carol Muehlig. He is looking forward to an intensive organ study at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp later this summer. He has played piano for the AARC's High Holidays services and looks forward to serving the congregation musically again in the future. The concert will feature pieces that Isaac has learned especially for the occasion, as well as several pieces that he has been playing for longer. The concert will also include a brief demonstration of the types of sounds and musical techniques achievable on the piano and organ.

Isaac's family has a current connection to Ukraine because Isaac's grandmother befriended Vladimir Sayenko, now a Ukrainian lawyer, when he was studying at the University of Michigan in 1993 and 1994. Sayenko later hosted Isaac's grandmother and mother on a visit to Goroshina (alternatively, Horoshyne), the Ukrainian village Isaac's great-great-grandfather fled in the early 1900s to come to the United States.

All proceeds will go to "Breathe" (Ukrainian: "Dyhai"), a charity originally founded in 2020 to provide equipment for hospitals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Sayenko is an associate of one of Breathe's founders, Isaac looks forward to keeping a close conversation going about the charity, and to seeing the good that the benefit concert proceeds will be able to accomplish. Thus far, Breathe has provided supplies to Ukrainian hospitals, winter clothing for the elderly, and electronic chargers, and other equipment to families, for lighting, communication, and for continuing children's education in the wake of wartime disruptions. Isaac said, "It's really good to be able to help people — even from so far away!" ■

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AA Jewish Federation new board elected at annual meeting

By Rachel Wall, Communications & Development Manager, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Among many other celebrations at the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor on May 31, community members voted in the next Board of Directors, whose term begins this fall. Three members of the Board closed their terms that evening as well. The Federation extends immense gratitude to Andy Tankanow, Joelle Abramowitz, and Immediate Past President Randy Milgrom for their service.

Jessica "Decky" Alexander now continues her terms as President of the Board, along with

Decky Alexander, Marla Linderman Richelew, and Debra Chopp

Co-Vice Presidents Debra Chopp and Marla Linderman Richelew. This year, Chopp will also serve as President-Elect. Additionally on the Board's Executive Committee are Marla Chinsky, who continues in the role of Treasurer, and Annie Wolock, who, after completing her first year on the Board, now takes on the role of Secretary, which was vacated by the outgoing Abramowitz.

The rest of the Board members who are either continuing existing terms or have been elected for a new term are Jeremy Bloom (Planning & Allocations Chair), Susan Fisher (Foundation Chair), Julie Grand, Murray Rebner, Marty Shichtman, Robert Stern, and Joshua Sukenic (Annual Community Campaign Chair).

The Federation is pleased that during the Annual Meeting the community also elected two new members to the Board: Larry Adler and Max Grad.

Larry Adler joined Huron Gastro in 1989, after completing his Gastroenterology training at the Cleveland Clinic. He served as President from 2007–2020 and retired at the end of 2022. He met his wife Sue at age 15, through BBYO, and dated through high school and college before marrying in 1981. They raised two children, Stephanie and Evan, and welcomed their daughter-in-law Marina to the family in October of 2021. They have been blessed with the arrival of their granddaughter, Myla, on New Year's Eve 2022.

Larry and Sue have been dedicated to the Ann Arbor Jewish community for many years. Collectively, they have volunteered and served on the Boards and various fundraising committees of JFS, JCC, Hadassah, ORT, Beth Israel, and the Federation. Sue and Larry enjoy travel, movies at the Michigan Theater, the camaraderie of their friends, and their extended family. Larry is an avid, yet struggling, golfer.

As a child of Holocaust survivors and one who has generationally benefited from JDC (the international humanitarian partner for the Jewish Federations of North America), Larry has become a default ambassador for Jewish organizations locally and abroad. The Federation is proud to welcome him to the Board.

Max Grad grew up in Miami, Florida, as a member of Temple Beth Am, and moved north to Chicago in 2013 where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of Chicago. After college, he worked across human resources and corporate finance functions for a few food and beverage companies including Kraft Heinz and Beam Suntory. He currently works in strategy for Constellation Brands, a beer, wine, and spirits company.

Throughout college, Grad was an active member of his campus Hillel at UChicago. He continued his involvement in the Chicago Jewish community post-undergrad through the Young Leadership Division (YLD) of the Jewish United Fund as a member of their YLD Board of Directors. While on the YLD Board, he served on committees that engaged with initiatives like Community Outreach and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He remains associated with UChicago Hillel as a member of their Board of Directors and was recently asked to be the organization's Board Chair beginning in the academic year 2023–24. Outside of Jewish life, Max is passionate about movies and the film industry and has been an Associate Board member of the Chicago International Film Festival for several years. Max moved to Ann Arbor in August of 2022 with his partner, Mara, who attends the University of Michigan Law School. He and Mara love cooking for friends and family, baking desserts, hosting cocktail parties, and exploring their new surroundings in Ann Arbor.

The Federation looks forward to the leadership of this exemplary group of volunteers who dedicate immense time to enhancing the Jewish community in greater Ann Arbor, in Israel, and around the world. To learn more about the Board of Directors and the Federation's work, visit JewishAnnArbor.org. ■

Why do I like this place?

Architects/urban planners Norm and Ilene Tyler will ask, "Why Do I Like This Place?" at the Jewish Cultural Society's (JCS) 2nd Friday Schmooze on June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

The discussion at the Jewish Community Center is open to everyone for free, without registration. The Tylers will explore what makes great urban spaces. Noteworthy historical precedents, such as Italy's Piazza San Marco in Venice and the Galleria in Milan, mirror Ann Arbor's own special places, such as Kerrytown and Nickels Arcade. They invite schmooze participants to consider the key design elements that demonstrate how a city's open spaces relate to its buildings and can create a well-balanced and people-friendly "image of a city."

Longtime JCS members Ilene R. Tyler and Norman Tyler live in the iconic Greek Revival style Robert S. Wilson house on N. Division Street. Ilene is an architect and advocate for the built environment. During her 30 years at Quinn Evans Architects, her projects included restoration of the Nashville Parthenon, Old Courthouse in St. Louis, and Detroit Observatory in Ann Arbor. She taught Preservation Technology at EMU and co-authored with husband Norm *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, now in its third edition.

Norman and Ilene Tyler

Norman Tyler is an architect and a nationally recognized EMU professor (emeritus) of urban planning. He has authored books on city planning, historic preservation, the history of transportation, women travel trailblazers, Greek Revival architecture, the Peace Corps, and a Tyler family history. Norm is also a community activist who has served on the board of numerous community and professional organizations. ■

Coming Home to HDS, continued from page 1rp/Hyperallergic)

before the jokes grow into worse things, like the stereotypes one of his classmates said they had encountered. Jo Schwalb mentioned that a swastika had been carved into a table at her school, and that that kind of action is hurtful toward many. Despite these experiences, most of the students focused on the good things about being Jewish. Joey emphasized that "being Jewish is more of a gift than a burden."

Asked what advice they would give the graduating fifth graders, the seniors made thoughtful suggestions like "Strike a balance between work and fun" and "Remember to think about your values — don't do things just because other people expect it." They also gave very practical advice: "Use your planner," and "Check your email." And they noted that even non-preferred subjects can be good classes if there is a good teacher.

Nessa Gafni-Pappas, a graduating HDS fifth grader, asked about making friends at a new school. A quieter senior said that they often waited for people to approach them, and they made friends with the people who sat near them in class. Others said that extracurricular activities are helpful for making friends with common interests.

"How was the transition from HDS to middle school?" asked another fifth grader. The seniors answered that the schools were definitely larger. Noah Reingold commented that being comfortable talking with teachers in the small setting at HDS helped him feel comfortable approaching teachers when he needed help in middle school and high school.

Asked about the experience afterwards, in addition to gushing about how tall the seniors were, the fifth graders commented that the discussion was helpful. Charlie Sorkin said, "It's nice to see that they went through the same experiences as us — going to HDS then transitioning to middle school." Daniel Hammer added, "We found out that they had the same worries we have." Leah Weiner and Daniel both commented, "It helped that they told us that it is pretty easy to find all the classes. That they're numbered." Difficulty finding classes is a common concern as students move from elementary to middle school. Nessa took an opportunity to look up what the seniors had predicted about their futures in their fifth grade yearbooks. She noted that their predictions did not necessarily match their current plans for the coming year or potential college majors!

As the Judaic Studies teacher, it was very special to have this opportunity to interact with my former students. I found one of their essays from the end of fifth grade and handed it to them as they were getting ready to leave. They laughed as they read what they had written years earlier. I asked my fifth graders, should we do this again in the future? Leah enthusiastically replied, thinking about when she's a high school senior, "I want to come back!" All of the students eagerly agreed. It seems we've started a new Hebrew Day School tradition! ■

Shmaya: A mikveh for mind, body, and soul

By Rabbi Hannah Estrin

In April, Israeli tour guide Shari Robins and I guided 30 members of the Kalamazoo Jewish community on a life-changing journey to Israel. On the first day of touring, these members of Kalamazoo's Congregation of Moses and Temple B'nai Israel gathered together in Tel Aviv to build community during their 10 days of touring, learning, visiting, and exploring. Escaping the cold

of Michigan for the warmth and sun of the Middle East, they left their daily lives behind to open their hearts and souls to transformation by their experience in the land of our ancestors and prayers.

Genesis 13:17 states, "Walk throughout the length and breadth of the land," and that is exactly what the group did. From the dry desert of the Negev to the cool green cedars of Lebanon and from crisp shores of the Mediterranean to salty depths of the Dead Sea, participants experienced the history, the stories, the trials and tribulations of the land. Ancient archaeological sites and routes deepened their connection to the land and personal histories. They stood on Roman roads where Jews walked 2,000 years ago and discussed how seeing a site elucidated their personal understanding and appreciation of Judaism.

Visiting Israel during the days of Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) lent a unique lens to the experience as locals from a variety of faiths, cultures, and communities shared their stories and foods with the group. Individuals of the Druze and Muslim communities, a young soldier, and community leaders shared their loves and their struggles. With a growing understanding of the diversity of peoples in Israel, the community members delved into conversations about the political situation, social protests, and the challenges of being a Conservative or Reform Jew in Israel. Some even joined the weekly Saturday evening protest against the proposed judicial overhaul. As the trip reached its zenith the group stood together for the two-minute memorial siren of Yom Hazikaron followed that evening by the experience of how Jerusalem parties on Yom Ha'atzmaut. The cost, the responsibility, and the privilege.

While the group placed their hands on the ancient stones of the Western Wall and prayed with local Reform and Conservative communities, one of the highlights was a visit to Mikveh Shmaya on Kibbutz Hannaton in the Lower Galilee. While traditional and historic use of the mikveh (ritual immersion pool) has often been seen as oppressive and limited in use, today Jews are reimagining immersion in the mikveh in line with their lives in the modern world and utilizing the healing and preparative powers of the living waters. As with a growing number of mikvaot (immersion pools) around the world, at Mikveh Shmaya individuals are encouraged to make the experience their own, whether for a traditional immersion or to create a ceremony to mark a lifecycle event, positive or negative, of their choosing.

Under the kind and capable guidance of Rabbi Dr. Haviva Ner-David, one can view an ancient mikveh from the Roman period and immerse in the only mikveh in the State of Israel open to all people. Ner-David balances her expertise in the halachot (laws and regulations) of the mikveh with a warmth and openness that encourages Jews to explore their own spirituality and connection to Judaism. One of the participants said of this experience, "One of the most meaningful experiences in Israel for me was meeting with Rabbi Haviva and then going into the mikveh for blessings. Rabbi Haviva has an aura of deep peace. Her presence of love and welcome prepared me for my mikveh experience in a spiritual way that I wasn't aware of until after the experience was completed." Once again, the mikveh is becoming a source for physical and emotional healing, preparation, and processing.

The experiences were powerful, the learning and the impacts long lasting, and the Jewish community stronger and more cohesive upon returning from their 10-day exploration of the land, the people, and themselves. At Passover each year Jews around the world conclude with "Next Year in Jerusalem." This community is ready for another opportunity and hopes that many others will join them. ■

Right and wrong ways for US officials to fight antisemitism

Dylan J. Williams, J Street Senior Vice President for Policy and Strategy on May 18, 2023

The Biden Administration is soon expected to release its national strategy for combating antisemitism. It's a welcome and sadly necessary initiative, with recent polling finding that 97 percent of Jewish voters are concerned about antisemitism in the United States.

Importantly, 76 percent of Jewish voters say former President Donald Trump and his political allies bear responsibility for the rise in antisemitism. 74 percent of Jewish voters say Trump and the MAGA movement are a threat to Jews in America.

Yet dozens of states, cities and private institutions have responded to growing antisemitism not by taking concrete steps against this rising tide of largely right-wing hatred, but by clamping down on criticism of Israel. Specifically, legislatures and other governing bodies across the country have formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism and its "contemporary examples" — seven out of eleven of which deal with Israel, five of them exclusively.

Kenneth S. Stern, Director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate and the primary drafter of the text which became the IHRA definition, has repeatedly testified in opposition to such efforts. He has made clear that the definition was devised as a reference to help European bureaucrats identify what kinds of incidents to consider while compiling reports on antisemitism. "The purpose was to take a temperature, not to create a blunt instrument to label anyone an antisemite," says Stern. Criticizing the Trump Administration's adoption of the IHRA definition in an executive order related to civil rights law enforcement at educational institutions, Stern made clear that, "This order is an attack on academic freedom and free speech, and will harm not only pro-Palestinian advocates, but also Jewish students and faculty, and the academy itself."

Stern is clear and unambiguous in his view of the IHRA definition being given the force of law: "To establish that as a principle of law is, to me, abhorrent."

The IHRA definition is also far from the only — or even the preferred — definition of antisemitism within the Jewish community. There are a host of definitions recently put forward including the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism endorsed by more than 350 scholars of antisemitism, Jewish history and law specifically in response to the IHRA definition's controversial conflation of much criticism of Israel with antisemitism.

So what explains the singular focus of officials on the IHRA definition? The answer is that influential pro-Israel organizations and the Israeli government have worked ceaselessly to lobby for adoption of the IHRA definition and its examples into law. In fact, a letter from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to Joe Biden just days before his inauguration as president specified only one action item for his incoming administration on the topic of rising antisemitism — "implementation" of the IHRA definition.

Focusing efforts to combat surging antisemitism on parsing criticism of Israel is deeply irresponsible when Jewish Americans need concrete government action to prevent horrific acts that are overwhelmingly obvious manifestations of antisemitism. There is no disclarity that a swastika painted on a Jewish community center is antisemitism. Nor is there doubt about the presence of antisemitism when someone assaults Jews wearing traditional Orthodox attire, excludes Jewish students from campus activities on the purported basis that they are Zionist, or murders worshipers in a synagogue. Adopting the IHRA definition into law and moving on to the next legislative item doesn't do a thing to help prevent these kinds of attacks or address the ignorance which gives rise to such bigoted hatred.

Yet to hear some proponents of the IHRA definition discuss antisemitism, you'd think the tide of hatred faced by Jewish communities around the world is a secondary priority to deflecting criticism of Israel. The Israeli Minister for Diaspora Affairs and the Struggle Against Antisemitism Amichai Chikli actually said just that, recently telling a group of visiting Jewish Americans that, "Antisemitism today is mainly the demonization, delegitimization, and double standards applied to Israel."

It is undeniable that critics of Israel can sometimes cross the line into antisemitism and they should be held accountable when they do. But refocusing the fight against antisemitism on defining what is and isn't appropriate criticism of Israel as a matter of law while surging right-wing antisemitism is literally killing American Jews is profoundly exploitative and dangerous.

Those who genuinely strive to be strong allies in the fight against antisemitism like the Biden Administration should look beyond the deceptively simple solution offered by advocacy groups pushing the IHRA definition. They should give due weight to the concerns of Jewish and pro-Israel Americans who oppose giving the definition the force of law. They should utilize the full array of definitions, educational materials and other tools to combat antisemitism. Most importantly, they should confront and root out the extremism that has given rise to this horrific surge in antisemitism. ■

Making more space: New queer programming at TBE

By Ariane Smith

When Rabbi Whinston called me to discuss something he'd noticed in my area of the sanctuary at Temple Beth Emeth, I was worried that he'd finally seen that I crack jokes during his d'var torah and I was being called into the principal's office. Turns out, he'd just noticed a lot of young queer folks sitting together, and wanted to find out what he could do to help make our small community bigger and stronger. Through that outreach, we had a meeting with a few friends and decided a first step was to have an LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck once a month for our local queer Jewish community.

The potluck is designed as a way for queer Jews in our area to build community and increase connection to both their queerness and Jewishness. We can engage in Jewish tradition in a group that affirms our identities as whole individuals, and meet more people like us. Many queer people of faith want a connection to their heritage without going to services, and we hope to give them an avenue to participate and make friends in an ongoing, monthly dinner. Attendee Sarah O. notes "[The LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck] felt like an extension of how to make Shabbat special. It's a great way to know more members of the congregation, and I've loved seeing more queer people come to services from these potlucks."

Since its inception, we've had four such potlucks, with both repeat guests and new attendees each month. We've had lifelong members of Temple Beth Emeth, new residents to the area who came to buy a mezuzah at the gift shop and saw us together, and people who are trying to increase their connection to Judaism. I've gotten to meet so many new people I might otherwise have missed out on and start making some new friends.

Best of all, it's shown me that there's a real opportunity here to expand our offerings. I knew there were lots of queer people at Temple Beth Emeth, and events like our Pride Shabbat and LGBTQ Night in the Sukkah are both huge successes and big reasons I started attending in the first place, but attendance at the potlucks has shown me that there's an appetite for more, so to speak. My friend and potluck attendee Ari Marcotte and I spearheaded a Trans Day of Visibility Shabbat this past March, and they are leading our upcoming Queer Torah Study. By speaking with the attendees at the potluck, we knew there was actual interest in these offerings, and are able to tailor future events to their needs. A regular at our potlucks, Max Steward, confirmed our thoughts: "It's really nice to be part of a community that's very spiritual and also very accepting of LGBTQ stuff — not just accepting, but welcoming. The potlucks, Trans Day of Visibility Shabbat, and Pride Shabbat are all part of that. Having all of these and being actively engaged in the community, acknowledging moments of celebration and also moments of fear and pain is about bringing in all of you and not just parts of you."

This Pride, we've got a lot on our docket. We'll be having our annual Pride Shabbat on June 9 at 7:30 p.m., with the monthly LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck right beforehand at 6 p.m. Part of this month's potluck will be the opportunity to make a fabric square to be included in our Identity Banner, quilted together by a member of the group and displayed on the bimah during the service. We'll also be launching our Queer Torah Study this summer! I hope you'll join us for one or many of our events — our community only gets better with every new face we see. As Zelda Snowden put it during the May LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck: "It boils down to being able to be Jewish, express my Jewishness, but not have to sacrifice my queerness in the process. This gives me an opportunity to feel both things fully, and provides family." ■

A fond farewell to Rabbi Daniel Alter

By Cantor Regina Hayut, Temple Beth Emeth

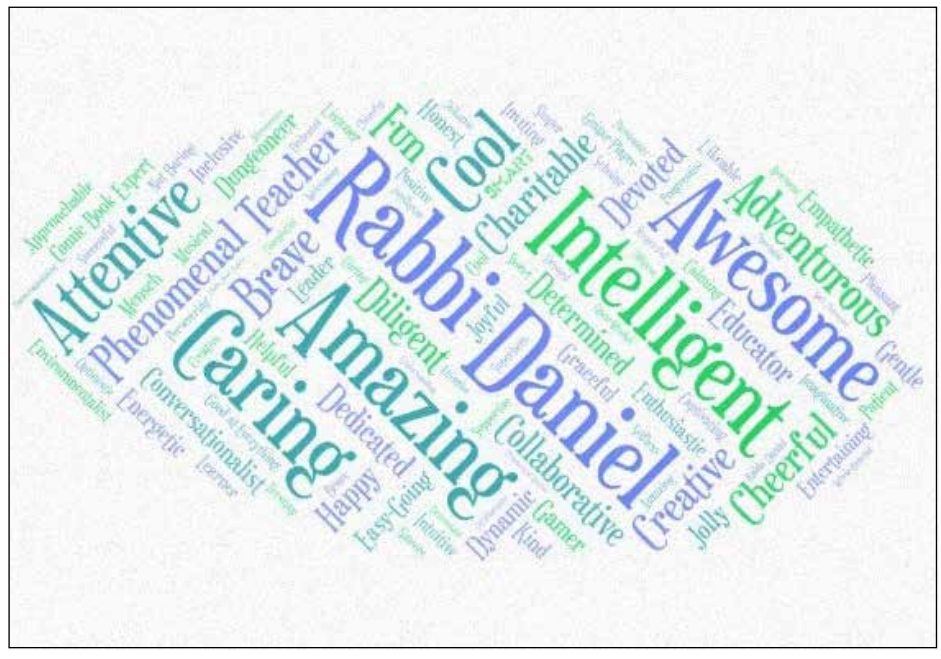
How does a community say goodbye to someone who has been an important and transformative presence for the past six years? That surely isn't easy, so rather than say "farewell," I'd rather share our good fortune through these

years of learning and growth with our Rabbi of Education, Daniel Alter.

It would be all the more difficult if he weren't embarking on an exciting new adventure with Temple Kol Emeth in Marietta, Georgia. So that we know how lucky they are and how lucky we have been, I'd like to take a moment to share some of his significant accomplishments and milestones at Temple Beth Emeth.

Rabbi Alter arrived during the summer of 2017 freshly ordained from Hebrew Union College with master's degrees in both Jewish Education and Hebrew Letters. His was a daunting task to follow our beloved Terri Ginsberg, for whom the TBE Religious School had been named and who made a significant mark on the community for nearly two decades. His first goals were simple — to have a meaningful job and be part of a Jewish community. His first task was to learn the day-to-day aspects of running a religious school program, something he had not yet done firsthand. Our hope was to see him make his mark on this thriving program, and he surely did!

His list of accomplishments is extensive; here are just a few of the standouts:



Created a school camp retreat, which began in his second year and has grown each year since.

Refreshed and updated the Hebrew and Religious School curricula. One of the highlights was his creation of the Harry Potter Passover Escape Room in place of the traditional school Model Seder. This fun and engaging experience became a favorite student activity.

Reimagining Religious School Tefillah for both Hebrew and Religious School. By reintegrating tefillah into the Hebrew School curriculum, students were encouraged to become both active participants as well as leaders for their peers.

Recruited a number of TBE congregants to teach in the school program. As a result, our students were able to see their teachers also as great congregational role models who were also active in other aspects of synagogue life.

The Covid pivot to online school. Rabbi Daniel and his amazing team felt the primary goal of Jewish learning during our new reality was social and emotional rather than skill acquisition. This included the creation of the Torah Toolboxes, an important innovation that put basic school supplies at the doorstep of each enrolled student. Temple volunteers made the deliveries so that teachers knew their students had the necessary supplies to succeed.

The Adult Learners' Talmud Class. Let's just say that as everyone was scrambling to find ways to help the community connect during COVID, this class was Rabbi Daniel's spaghetti that just stuck. He was thrilled that there was so much interest in the beginning but never imagined that it would continue on as long as it has.

The rewriting of the Torah Aura publication *Parashah* by Joel Lurie Grishaver, originally published in 2000. The single volume opus outlining all of the Torah portions was to be expanded into five separate books. Some portions needed a little updating while others needed to be entirely re-conceived. Over the past few years, he has completed four of the volumes and is currently working on the fifth and final volume.

With the many innovative successes that Rabbi Daniel has achieved, he could have only accomplished them by facing the challenges inherent in such a position with grace and fortitude. What makes Rabbi Daniel so well suited to this career is his resiliency and his persistence to continue to work hard through all of the issues that inevitably come up in day-to-day synagogue life.

With that in mind, I asked Rabbi Daniel his proudest achievement. He highlighted his work on High Holy Day Family Services. He felt he was able to overcome the challenges of his first year and create an engaging and successful experience. It also opened him up to being seen in the role of a Rabbi in the community. This experience, along with supporting the congregation during our senior Rabbi Josh Whinston's sabbatical, may have been just what was needed to set him up for a successful transition to his new position as both Rabbi and Educator on the bima and off.

We at Temple Beth Emeth know that we have been very lucky to have had Rabbi Daniel Alter as a part of our community for six years and watch him spread his wings toward the next phase of his exciting and important journey!

Rabbi Daniel — we wish you B'hatzlacha! May you be blessed as you go on your way and guide your students of all ages at your next synagogue home as capably and caringly as you have guided us! ■

Michigan BBYO elects new regional board

Michigan Region BBYO hosted its final convention of the year in April, at Camp Maas. Teens from Metro Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Windsor, Canada, gathered to close out the programming year with the annual Spring Convention. This event featured special guests including *Dancing with the Stars*' Alan Bersten, teen-created and -led programming, and the election of Michigan Region BBYO's 99th and 79th Regional Boards.

For rising teen leaders, regional board elections were a highlight. Over the weekend, the next group of leaders were elected to bring Michigan Region to new heights. The 12-person board will represent the region as teens work to expand BBYO in their home cities.

Eden Smith was elected as the 79th Regional Teen President and will be serving alongside Gabe Sugarman, the 99th Regional Teen President. In the role of President, Eden and Gabe will be guiding the new regional boards and their chapter counterparts to strengthen their BBYO communities further.

Mia Brand and Ethan Simon (Ann Arbor) will be serving as the region's 79th and 99th Teen Vice Presidents of Programming. Mia and Ethan will work together to elevate regional and chapter programming over the next year.

The 79th and 99th Teen Vice Presidents of Membership are Hailey Serlin and Zachary Elbinger. These Regional Board members will be tackling recruitment, retention, and education for the Michigan Region over the next year.

Sarah Cohon and Ryan Rubin will be serving as the 79th and 99th Teen Vice Presidents of Communication. In this role, Sarah and Ryan will be handling regional social media, governance, and globalization.

Talia Begres and Jonah Miller were elected as the Region's 79th and 99th Teen Vice Presidents of Jewish Enrichment. These leaders connect Jewish heritage and community service into regional and chapter programming.

Lastly, Rebecca Rabin and Matthew Gurwin close out the board as Michigan's 79th and 99th Teen Vice Presidents of Treasury. In this role, Rebecca and Matthew oversee all fundraising throughout the region.

"I look forward to a fantastic term and working with a great board of passionate leaders," said Eden Smith. "I know the best is yet to come for our region and I can't wait to see what the future holds!"

Top L to R (Gabe Sugarman, Ethan Simon, Zachary Elbinger, Jonah Miller, Matthew Gurwin, Ryan Rubin). Bottom L to R (Eden Smith, Mia Brand, Talia Begres, Rebecca Rabin, Sara Cohon, Cami Katzen) Not pictured: Hailey Serlin.

Michigan Region BBYO's Spring Convention represents a new generation of leaders as the organization enters its 100th year this fall. New advancements and developments await Michigan Region with the election of these new regional board members.

"As we embark on our 100th year, I am looking forward to working with this talented group of teens," said Audrey Bloomberg. "This is an exciting time to be a member of Michigan Region BBYO."

For more information about Michigan Region BBYO, please visit https://bbyo.org/bbyonear-you/regions/michigan-region or contact Audrey Bloomberg at abloomberg@bbyo.org

Please note that BBYO should not be referred to as the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization but rather as "BBYO." For more information on BBYO, please visit bbyo.org and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Jewish community meetup at Summer Fest 2023

By McKenzie Katz, Community Relations Manager, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

After last year's success, local Jewish community organizations are coming together again for a night of drinks and dancing at Ann Arbor Summer Fest at Top of the Park.

Sunday, June 11, starting at 5 p.m., the private section of the drink area known as "The Grove" will open to the Jewish community for a free first drink and snacks (non-alcoholic drinks available as well) while you schmooze and jam out to an incredible music lineup.

The Grove is a child-friendly space, but concurrent to the adult entertainment, the Top of the Park Kid Zone tent will offer additional kid-centered entertainment from 5–8 p.m. On June 11, Child Life Specialists from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital will be helping kids create art projects using medical supplies. Plus, it's Sidewalk Chalk Day with beloved local artist David Zinn all day.

Starting at 5 p.m. on the Ingalls Mall stage, Folk/Americana and multi-instrumentalist Aspen Jacobsen begins her set, followed by Ann Arborite and contemporary folk singer-songwriter Anne Erlewine at 6 p.m.

Midwestern-based power pop band The Shake Ups, which performs songs inspired by pop culture and cartoons, takes the stage at 7 p.m. Closing out the night will be an Ann Arbor favorite, Lady Sunshine and the X-Band, whose music is a passionate reflection of the very essence of the Motor City: emotion, fire, pride, and soul. They start playing at 8:30 p.m.

Top of the Park takes place on the University of Michigan's Ingalls Mall, right next to Hill Auditorium.

We can't wait to gather with the community and kick off the summer right! Feel free to reach out to Community Relations Manager of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, McKenzie Katz, at McKenzie@jewishannarbor.org, with any questions. You can view all this event's information at JewishAnnArbor.org. ■

Lady Sunshine performing at Top of the Park in 2016. Photo credit: Myra Klarman Photography

Summer Strolls are back!

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County celebrates our thriving collaboration with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, and Beth Israel Congregation this summer with the return of Summer Strolls.

JFS's congregation-based social worker, Rebecca Nieubuurt, offers programming to Washtenaw County's aging population while embedded in the Jewish community. In Michigan we must celebrate each sunny day. Why not do so while meeting new people — or old friends — and enjoying the many parks in Ann Arbor? These group strolls meet in a different Ann Arbor public park every other Thursday throughout the summer, no registration is required, and you can come to any or all of the scheduled walks. This program is aimed at seniors to increase community engagement, reduce isolation, and enjoy the great outdoors. Parks and trails are wheelchair accessible and folks are free to walk at their own pace. All are welcome to come to any of the six walks. We will meet at the appointed destination on the following dates:

June 8, 10:30 a.m., Gallup Park Ramble Trail. Meet at Centennial Playground Park

June 22, 10:30 a.m., Matthaei Botanical Garden. Meet at the Visitor's Center Entrance

July 6, 10:30 a.m., Argo Park and Nature Area. Meet at the Canoe Livery

July 20, 10:30 a.m., Leslie Science and Nature Area. Meet at the main parking lot

August 3, 10:30 a.m., Island Park. Meet at the big parking lot (third opportunity to park)

August 17, 10:30 a.m., County Farm Park. Meet at the covered patio near Platt Road

Other community programing offered through the JFS congregation-based social work program includes Aging Solo and The Bereavement Group. Aging Solo is a support group for those living alone with no relatives within a 5-hour drive. The Bereavement Group is a support group for individuals who have lost a life partner. For more information about the Summer Strolls, Aging Solo, or The Bereavement Group, please email Rebecca Nieubuurt, rebeccan@jfsannarbor.org. ■

Recruiting singers for 2023 Jewish Choral Festival

Each year since 1990, the North American Jewish Choral Festival (NAJCF) has attracted hundreds of singers who "Sing Their Hearts Out" and connect to Jewish culture during a five-day immersion in Jewish music. From around the country, hundreds of voices come together to form one harmonious choral community led by a renowned staff of conductors and other music experts who inspire and create a truly unique musical society. This year's 34th annual event will be held from July 9 – 13, 2023 at the Sleepy Hollow Hotel in Tarrytown, New York.

"The Festival is for anyone who wants to experience the joy of Jewish music," says Matthew Lazar, Festival Founder and Director. "The participants are multi-generational and include amateur singers, professionals, cantors, conductors, and lovers of Jewish music of all ages."

Festival participants from across North America and beyond, enjoy a wide variety of Jewish musical experiences. These include daily community sings; workshops and seminars on topics ranging from sight-singing and vocal technique to spirituality through music; and evening concerts featuring choirs and outstanding performers.

According to Dana Stein of North Brunswick, New Jersey, who has been participating in the Festival since its inception, "The Festival presents a wonderful opportunity to learn extraordinary music and work with accomplished conductors from all over the world, all while having a mini vacation."

One of the distinguishing features of this Festival is that individual singers can participate in "Instant Ensembles." All singers are divided into five different choirs, based on their sight-reading abilities and previous musical experience. The Festival culminates with ensembles performing for the entire group.

"The Festival is an uplifting experience for people of all denominations who have Jewish connections to come together through their love of music," adds Sharon Greene of Sarasota, Florida.

This year's Festival celebrates the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel with choral repertoire by Israeli composers featured throughout the Festival program.

According to Barry Brian of Walnut Creek, California, "The Festival represents my five favorite days of the year. I connect to my Jewish heritage through music and form an emotional bond with hundreds of people to create glorious sound."

"Whether you're a novice or a pro, you'll leave with new skills, new music and new friends to cherish as hundreds of singers gather together for an unforgettable experience," concludes Mr. Lazar.

The North American Jewish Choral Festival is a program of the Zamir Choral Foundation. To register for this year's Festival go to NAJCF 2023 Application - Formstack. For more information, go to zamirchoralfoundation.org. ■

Beth Israel events in June

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Camp Style Shabbat
Friday, June 9, 5:45 p.m.
Join us for a family-friendly dinner for all sponsored by the Kress Family. Come enjoy a pasta bar dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by the Friday evening service at 6:15 p.m. featuring Rav Nadav on the bimah and Rachel Lawrence-Lupton on guitar. Cap the night off with a sundae bar for dessert after services. All are welcome to this free event. Please register on the Beth Israel website (bethisrael-aa.org).

Terry Swartzberg: Stolpersteine and Jewish Life in Germany
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.
Beth Israel welcomes Terry Swartzberg to discuss the Stolpersteine ("stumbling blocks"): the world's project of Holocaust commemoration which consists of over 100,000 sidewalk-level plaques in 1,800 cities in 31 European countries. These plaques have been placed in front of the homes of victims of the Holocaust. Terry will also speak about his experiences living as a Jew in Germany.

Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi's Table to Yours
Friday, June 23, 6 p.m.
Join Rav Nadav and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours. Join at 5:40 p.m. for some pre-Shabbat visiting.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, June 30, 6 p.m.
A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. The choir, dubbed the "Holy Levites," will be holding a rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. leading right up to and seamlessly into services. All are welcome to attend.

Theology Book Club — Online
Wednesdays at 8 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Evening Minyan — virtual only
Sunday at 5 p.m.
Mondays–Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Evening Services — in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services — in person and virtual
Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. ■

AARC events in June

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation website: aarecon.org. For more information about services or events or to receive Zoom links, please email: aarcgillian@gmail.com

AARC Book Group
June 4, potluck lunch at Carol Levin's house, 12:15–1 p.m.
Hybrid discussion (in person and on Zoom) 1–2 p.m. We will discuss *My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past* by Ariel Sabar.

Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service
June 10, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the JCC. This is a hybrid Shabbat Service led by members of the congregation. Everyone is welcome! Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event.

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat
June 23, 6:30 p.m. in person at the JCC and on Zoom.
This is a hybrid service led by members of the congregation. Everyone is welcome! ■

Pardes Hannah events in June

Please check the Pardes Hannah website (https://pardeshannah.org/) for the latest information, including location of in-person events, registration links for Zoom, and other details on these or any of our services, rituals, circles, or teachings, or call Renee Robbins at 734-904-5459.

Shabbat Morning Services
Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Study Session on the Shema
Saturday, June 17, 3–5 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Online Minyan
Monday, June 19, 9–10:15 a.m.

Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Circle
Monday, June 19, 7–8:30 p.m. ■

JCOR looks to the future

By Deborah Meyers Greene

Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement (JCOR) has been working with a refugee family of four as they complete the first 10 months in the United States in June. The family is doing quite well. The two children are counting down to June 9, the last day of classes in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and big sister is looking for a summer job. Dad secured his first-ever driver's license, and the family purchased a reliable used car in April, so transport to work is assured without the expense of contracting with a car service. Following their inaugural winter experience north of the equator, the entire family is relishing the return of the sun's warmth and the bright shocks of flowers that accent the spaces around town.

The volunteers of JCOR applaud the family's benchmarks with admiration for these four brave individuals who are fighting so hard to secure their new lives in Ann Arbor as our independent neighbors.

"It is a privilege to pursue tikkun olam by doing something that so clearly contributes to the well-being of this family," said Midge Cone, who serves as JCOR's Education Team Lead. "The children have had a pretty good school year and are doing better each month as their English skills improve. Their futures are very promising, and our entire team is gratified to have been able to contribute to their first steps up the educational ladder that will support their trajectory."

JCOR2 On the Horizon

As the family's first anniversary in the U.S. approaches in mid-August, JCOR is anticipating "JCOR2" with a new family, possibly as soon as August or early September. Renewed volunteer recruitment, training, and fundraising efforts will launch in coming weeks.

Four major elements make JCOR work: volunteers, donors, collaborating congregations, and institutional partners.

Cone is one of about three dozen JCOR volunteers who serve on eight teams that provide support in education, healthcare, housing and welcome, finance, transportation, employment, childcare, cultural orientation, and on-call service. JCOR leaders also acknowledge the critical role of our community's generous donors who contributed to the JCOR fund that subsidized the family's rent, utilities, transportation, health care, and so much more until they could achieve financial independence.

JCOR's six collaborating member congregations — Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth — provide the backbone of JCOR's ability to communicate with supporters and rally resources throughout the community. And finally, JCOR's institutional partners, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County and the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, provide supervision and support as well as fiduciary services.

"In these days when achieving the 'American Dream' is increasingly difficult, especially for newly arriving refugees, we are really very happy to play our part in overcoming the odds facing our community's newest neighbors," said JCOR Coordinator Harvey Somers. "We encourage others to join us in this rewarding effort as we prepare to ask JFS to match us with a new family — JCOR2."

On June 23, at 7:30 p.m., as part of its June for Justice Shabbats, the Temple Beth Emeth Social Action committee will host a Refugee Shabbat honoring TBE's work with Jewish Family Services and JCOR. This service will weave personal stories of congregants' refugee and immigration experience with Shabbat liturgy to bring to life the many contributions that JCOR with JFS provides.

About JCOR: Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement is a participant in JFS's Co-Sponsorship Program. JCOR member congregations include Beth Israel Congregation, Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth, along with the Jewish Federation which serves as JCOR's fiduciary. JCOR's goal is to help the newcomers become independent neighbors over the course of their first year. ■

Immersive summer experiences with Adamah Detroit

Carly Silverman, Adamah Detroit staff

Throughout the school year we coordinate programs and initiatives focused on cultivating connection to — and responsibility for — the planet. With seven organizational partners during the 2022–2023 school year, our Nature Chuggim programs aim to engage and inspire children and families through joyful Jewish environmental education, all developed to cultivate vibrant Jewish identity and community while inspiring a lifelong responsibility for the environment.

During the month of May, we partnered with the Hebrew Day School in Ann Arbor for Nature Chuggim programming. We brought a variety of activities that helped the children connect with nature and integrate environmental values into Jewish life. Activities included outdoor games, using our senses to observe and connect with the natural world, worm composting, Havdalah spice kits, and gardening. Relationships and community connection underpin all our work, and we are thrilled to have started this partnership with the Hebrew Day School and look forward to our continued collaboration next school year.

And while our school-year Nature Chuggim programs come to an end, we'll be coordinating a robust series of programs and events this summer, all focused on Jewish community building in deep connection with the earth. We'll be working closely with our partners at the JCC Day Camp in Ann Arbor and Metro Detroit to provide Jewish Environmental Education training to key staff and provide complementary nature-based programming, working to develop the next generation of Jewish environmental leaders.

Throughout the summer, we will be partnering with various organizations on our Summer Family Series programs, facilitating Jewish nature-based outdoor experiences that are open to all families! In June, we look forward to our Kehillah (Community) Canoe Adventure on the Huron River to enjoy the scenery and sounds of nature on the water! Accompanying our paddle will be an exploration of Jewish values, our relationship to water, and some new songs to learn. In July, in partnership with JFamily, we will be hosting a Teva (Nature) Tot Shabbat on July 8 at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. Together, we will take a gentle hike on the trails, exploring themes of Shabbat through nature exploration, play, and singing songs. In August, we will head to Maybury Farms for our Chaverim (Friends) on the Farm program. Participants will get to meet the animals at Maybury Farm: horses, donkeys, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, cows, alpacas, and more! We'll explore Jewish values through our connection to the animals that provide our food and clothing resources. Children will be able to get hands on with goat milking, grooming, and feeding as well as a wagon ride.

Additionally in August, Adamah Detroit will host a Jewish Environmental Educator training on August 20 at the J. This daylong training experience will bridge the connection between Judaism, community, and the natural world through hands-on, thoughtful, and engaging Jewish environmental education content across different ages and Jewish backgrounds. We anticipate a dozen organizations joining together to support a new cohort of Jewish educators who will bring spirited, joyful Jewish environmental learning into local religious school programming during the 2023–2024 school year.

For details and to RSVP for our collaborative community programs, visit our website and keep in touch with us on Facebook and Instagram. Our team is grateful to be doing this work together and feels excited to offer a variety of immersive experiences this summer! We look forward to continued and deepened partnership as Adamah Detroit. ■

The Jewish people entering the Land of Israel

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor

On the Shabbat of June 14, we will read the Torah portion of Shelach (Numbers 13:1), which includes the report of the spies whom Moses sent to explore the Land of Israel. The reaction of the Jewish people to the spies' negative report was immediate: "Our wives and children will surely be taken captive by the strong people living there. Let us appoint a new leader and go back to Egypt." G-d, therefore, decreed that they would not be allowed to enter the Land. "But your children, of whom you said 'they will become prey,' them I will bring in, and they will know the land you have despised." The children, the younger generation, will be the ones to enter Israel, G-d promises.

Why is there such an emphasis on children, in both the complaint of the Jewish people and in G-d's response? Because children played a significant role both in the inheritance of the Land and the mission with which the Jewish people are entrusted.

Concerning young children our Sages comment: "A baby breaks into crumbs more than he manages to eat."

This saying can be understood in the spiritual sense. A baby symbolizes a person who possesses little wisdom and understanding. The food represents the Torah and its commandments that sustain the soul. A person who is an "adult," who utilizes his time on earth wisely, focuses on doing mitzvot and fulfilling his mission in life. A child, in the spiritual sense, wastes most of his time by becoming involved with extraneous matters, losing sight of the Divine purpose for his soul. Most of his spiritual sustenance, the Torah, ends up unassimilated and undigested, "crumbs on the floor."

This, in fact, was the claim made by the spies: "Why must we enter the Land of Israel and waste our precious time involving ourselves with physical matters? Here in the desert where all our physical needs are miraculously met, we can devote ourselves totally to G-dly pursuits. For even if we will have time to study once we enter the Land, most of our day will be wasted! It is far better to stay in the desert than to lower ourselves to that level!"

G-d responded: "Your children ... will be the ones to inherit." Even though the generation of Jews that left Egypt was on a very high spiritual level, devoting their lives to studying the Torah, it was precisely the children, those possessing little Torah knowledge, who would be allowed to enter the Land of Israel. The new generation would be required to pursue a different path, working hard to provide the physical necessities of life, while at the same time imbuing their surroundings with G-dliness and holiness. For this is what G-d really wants Jews to do. Our mission in life is to lead a "normal" physical existence seamlessly combined with following the precepts of the Torah.

Torah learning of young children is also especially dear to G-d. "The learning of little children may not be disturbed, even to build the Holy Temple!" we are told. Their pure faith and belief in G-d has the power to arouse G-d's mercy and foil the evil plans of the enemies of the Jewish people. ■

June 9 – August 27

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NEWSREAL

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IN MY SHOES

Join us for our annual

Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Burns Park Elementary School

Join JFS on our annual fundraising walk in support of the diverse clients and community members that walk through our doors in need of help. It truly takes a village.

The Walk A Mile in My Shoes event directly supports JFS's Refugee Resettlement Programs.

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A REAL AND TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE.**

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JFS
Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

While registration for the event is free, we encourage you to ask your friends and family to sponsor your journey and JFS' mission of **creating solutions, promoting dignity, and inspiring humanity.**

JFS Opens New, Expanded Kitchen and Pantry This Month

This month Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) will complete the year-long construction of its new Shalom Kitchen, located in its building on 2245 S. State Street. The new commercial kitchen space significantly expands JFS Nourish Nutrition Services, increasing its capacity and adding new services that further solidify its role in the community as a unique provider of specialty food and nutrition services.

JFS's Nourish Nutrition Services has come a long way since it began 30 years ago as a humble makeshift pantry in the CEO's office to ensure that no one left the agency hungry. During the pandemic, services were quickly and dramatically increased, adding delivery options and extending the pantry's operations to five days a week. Today, Nourish Nutrition Services has grown to become a preeminent Washtenaw County provider of nutrition services, serving all diverse members of the local community.

Despite a misconception that no one is hungry in Washtenaw County, the rising cost of living has created a high percentage of working people who live on the edge of poverty. Marginalized groups and older adults are disproportionately the ones facing these challenges. While many assume the community has largely recovered from hardships during the pandemic, the JFS pantry is still seeing similar demand for services as in the spring/summer of 2020.

Through it all, JFS has grown and adapted to meet the increased demand while "making it work" in spaces that were not ideal. JFS currently feeds more than 800 people every month, but has struggled to keep up without the proper infrastructure-- facilities and space. Meals for JFS's Meals on Wheels program were acquired from outside caterers, limiting the cost control, quality assurance and flexibility needed to create a truly person-centered meal approach. The new Shalom Kitchen, leveraging more than $900,000 in grants and donations, changes all of that.

Features like a loading dock, wider hallways, walk-in cooler/freezer, as well as a full prep kitchen and other modern amenities will allow staff (and the many JFS volunteers essential to Nourish Nutrition Services) to efficiently move food in and out with an open concept and natural traffic flow.

"Unlike the old pantry, which was designed to merely accommodate our existing building layout, the new pantry is designed exclusively and strategically with nutrition services in mind," said Christine Taylor, senior director of community assistance at JFS. "We're really excited for clients and volunteers to experience the dramatically different space."

Not only will the new multi-purpose area quadruple the capacity of the original JFS Specialty Food Pantry, but also, the addition of a commercial kitchen will provide new community engagement opportunities. JFS will use the Shalom Kitchen as a workforce training program for newly arrived refugees to learn the hands-on kitchen experience they would need to work in a local restaurant. Additionally, the commercial kitchen will serve as a business incubator for individuals wishing to start their own small food businesses.

The variety and quality of services provided by JFS's Nourish program makes Shalom Kitchen unique within Washtenaw County. The Shalom Kitchen creates new pathways to nutrition for clients who don't benefit from a "one-size fits all" approach. Notably, older adults often face mobility, vision and dexterity issues which can preclude their preparing certain foods. The new kitchen will offer enable JFS to prepare new food options (like cut prepped vegetable, and bundles snacks) to make it easier for older adults to eat healthy choices.

JFS has long been committed to making food as barrier-free as possible for all Washtenaw County residents. JFS is the county's only specialty food pantry catering to medical, religious and cultural diets, such as halal and kosher options. For those unable to visit the pantry in person, delivery options are available, and a new online ordering system will make ordering food ahead easier than ever before.

"No one should have to decide between nutritious food and paying for other critical needs such as medicine and rent," said Sarah Schneider Hong, chief program officer at JFS. "We all have a shared responsibility to address food insecurity, and our new kitchen and pantry is a big step towards meeting the needs of the community."

The JFS Shalom Kitchen will open to the public in early June. Learn more at jfsannarbor.org. Financial contributions to the kitchen and JFS Nutrition Services are still needed, contact mgoodson@jfsannarbor.org to learn about opportunities.

JFS Nutrition Services is always looking for volunteer support, especially drivers to deliver meals on wheels (and a friendly greeting) to seniors. Please contact volunteer@jfsannarbor.org to get involved.

Never enough Moroccan food

Lonnie Sussman, special to the WJN

True confessions. I lied when I wrote last month that I had just returned from Morocco. I was about to leave for the trip and didn't return until after the May issue was published. Please forgive me as I'm still jet lagged but excited to share some actual experiences from this beautiful country as well as some of the information and meals I had there.

I learned of the 2,000 years' presence, give or take some centuries, of Jewish life in Morocco. We heard this from our wonderful guide, Mohammad, a devout Muslim, who frequently told us that Morocco had three cultures, the indigenous Berber tribes, Arabs, and Jews. The last two groups arrived after expulsion from Spain in 1492. Although Morocco is now a Muslim country, all the groups, including the many Jews who left in the mid-1950s to emigrate to Israel, Europe, or Canada, are considered to be citizens of Morocco.

Currently there are very few Jews left in the country, as we learned when we visited one of the two remaining synagogues in Fez. They can't hold services as there are not enough men to make a minyan (prayer quorum), but the state provides protection for the building. In recent years tourism from Israel to Morocco has exploded as people return to see their homeland and the sites of famous Moroccan rabbis and scholars.

We went to one enormous cemetery in Marakesh that was very meaningful and emotional. Mohammad also shared many of the Sunni Muslim beliefs and traditions, Bible stories, and Koranic laws. Our group, composed of mostly Jewish women, often told him, "That's exactly what Jews believe."

Mezes

These are starters or appetizers. You may know these starters from trips to other countries as well. We had about 30 meals in Morocco and all, except breakfasts, began with meze. There were often 3–5 little salads before lunch and dinner. Many were eggplant based and here are two of the recipes. The goal of the spicy starters is to "wake up your appetite." I usually felt full after eating the salads.

Spicy Eggplant and Pepper Salad

The Book of Jewish Food by Claudia Roden

Serves 6–8

2 Eggplants (about 3 pounds total)
2 red bell peppers
1 tsp cumin
1 tsp paprika
A good pinch cayenne or chili pepper
2–3 cloves garlic, crushed
4 tbs olive oil or light vegetable oil
Juice of 1 lemon
Salt

Prick the eggplants all over and roast in a very hot oven (450 degrees) or on a grill along with the peppers. Take the peppers out after about ½ hour and leave the eggplant in until the skin is blistered, and the eggplants are very soft, about another 15 minutes. Peel both and cut into small cubes, about an inch or slightly smaller. In a pan put the cumin, paprika, cayenne, garlic, and oil, and stir over low heat until the aroma rises. Take off

the heat for a minute to cool and then add ½ cup water, the lemon juice, and salt to taste. Put in the eggplants and peppers and cook for 10–15 minutes back in the pan until the water evaporates. Serve cold with pita.

Fried Eggplant and Pepper Salad

The Book of Jewish Food by Claudia Roden

Serves 6–8

Some of the same ingredients, but fried rather than roasted.

2 eggplants, about 3 pounds total
Salt
Olive oil for frying
2 tbs wine vinegar
5 cloves garlic, sliced
3 red or green bell peppers

Trim and slice the eggplants into round about 1/3 inch thick. Sprinkle with salt and leave for 1 hour in a colander. Then rinse and dry on a tea towel or paper towel. Fry in hot oil but not so hot that they brown too quickly. Turn once to brown them all over and then drain on paper towels. Arrange in a layer on the serving dish and sprinkle with vinegar. Fry the garlic in 2 tbs of oil, stirring, until lightly colored. Lift out of the oil and sprinkle them on the eggplants. Fry the peppers whole, turning them so they are soft and browned all over. Cut them in ribbons, remove the seeds and spread them over the eggplants.

Harira, Lentil and Garbanzo Bean Soup

The Scent of Orange Blossoms by Kitty Morse and Danielle Mamane

Serves 6

This soup was our starter at several dinners. What is most interesting about the recipe is that Muslims end the daily fast of Ramadan with this soup and Moroccan Jews ended the Yom Kippur fast with it. It was thickened with flour or rice or crushed angel hair pasta.

2 tbs olive oil
2 onions, sliced
4 celery stalks, diced
½ cup brown lentils, cleaned and picked over

7 ½ cups vegetable or beef stock
4 large tomatoes, peeled and seeded (or canned and skip the extra work), coarsely chopped
20 sprigs cilantro and 15 sprigs of parsley
1 tbs ground turmeric
1 tsp ground ginger
2 tbs raw long-grained rice
½ cup canned chickpeas, drained
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp ground pepper
3 tbs flour
Wedges of lemon for serving

Use a soup pot and heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden, about 4–5 minutes. Add the celery, lentils, and 6 ½ cups of stock. Cover tightly and bring to a rolling boil. Cook until the celery is tender, 10–15 minutes. Decrease the heat to medium. Use a blender to combine ½ cup of the stock with the tomatoes, cilantro, parsley, turmeric, and ginger. Process until the mixture is smooth. Add to the lentils along with the rice and garbanzo beans. Cook for about 30–35 minutes or until the lentils are tender. Season with the salt and pepper. Five minutes before serving bring the soup to a simmer. In a bowl mix the flour with the remaining ½ cup of stock to make a smooth paste. Add it to the soup, stirring continuously, until it thickens somewhat. Do not boil. Serve immediately with wedges of lemon on the side.

Shabbat Dinner in Fez

Our travel group tried, without success, to find a restaurant to have a kosher Shabbat dinner. What we found was Moshe, a Moroccan-born Israeli who has returned to live in Fez and who keeps a kosher kitchen in which to cook for visitors who want a kosher meal. He travels back and forth to Israel about once a month. The dinner was arranged in a Riad, a beautiful traditional home that has a center open-air garden and pool or fountain. This Riad is now a hotel as well as a restaurant. Moshe made all the food for our group of 12 and came out frequently to check on us. We were able to have our own version of a family Shabbat evening meal with blessings. It was an amazing evening. One of the highlights for me was the kofta, basically a hamburger. I have eaten ground meat only a few times in the past three years but made an exception for this traditional way of making a ground meat patty.

Kofta Meshweya, Grilled Ground Meat Patties

The Book of Jewish Food by Claudia Roden

Serves 6

This is not exactly what we had. I tasted some allspice and or cinnamon in the meat or maybe it was the spice blend Ras el Hanout, also called Top of the Shop. It was delicious.

2 pounds ground beef or lamb
2 medium onions, grated or very finely chopped
½ cup finely chopped parsley
Salt and pepper

You know how to make a hamburger. Mix all the ingredients and divide into 8 hamburger patties. Cook over a grill or under an oven broiler for about 7–10 minutes, turning once.

Ras el Hamout
Makes about 2 ½ tablespoons

2 tsp ground allspice
1 tsp ground nutmeg
2 tsp ground mace
1 tsp ground ginger

¼ tsp ground black pepper
½ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cinnamon

Combine all ingredients, store at room temperature in a tightly closed container.

Or buy it at By the Pound, or other stores in the area.

Oriza of Wheat Berries and Sweet Potatoes

The Scent of Orange Blossoms by Kitty Morse and Danielle Mamane

Serves 4

We had tagines every day, sometimes twice a day. A tagine is a stew and also the special cooking pot used to make it that has a round bottom and a cover with a distinct shape. They are used to cook stews made with beef or lamb and some vegetables like potatoes and carrots and often with prunes and dried apricots. I had the vegetable tagines made with potatoes, carrots, squash, and cabbage with couscous. All were very good but here is an easier recipe that doesn't call for the tagine. Use an ovenproof skillet or a Dutch oven.

2 tbs olive oil
2 onions, finely diced
1 tsp Hungarian sweet paprika
¾ cup whole wheat berries, rinsed and drained
2 cups water
1 tsp salt
1 small sweet potato, peeled and cut into ½ inch cubes
2 heads of garlic, papery husk removed. Don't worry, the heads of garlic will mellow out in the cooking.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Heat the olive oil in the skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the onions and paprika and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onions are soft, 6–8 minutes. Add the wheat berries and stir to coat for 2–3 minutes. Add the water, salt, sweet potato, and garlic. Seal the pan tightly with aluminum foil and then with a lid. Bake until the wheat berries are tender but still chewy, 2½ to 3 hours. Serve immediately with the garlic on the side. Serve with pita or bread and spread the buttery garlic on it.

Moroccan Coconut Cake

The Book of Jewish Food by Claudia Roden

Serves 10

We usually had fresh fruit for dessert, but I am going to make this cake very soon. End of lunch and dinner meals always included *mint tea*.

3 cups dried grated coconut
1 cup fresh orange juice
1½ cups sugar
4 tbs sunflower oil
6 eggs, separated

In a bowl, mix the dried coconut with the orange juice and leave to soak for about 20 minutes or until the coconut is soft. Add the sugar, oil, and egg yolks and mix well.

Beat the egg whites stiff and fold into the egg mixture. Then pour into a greased nonstick cake pan and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 45 minutes. Turn out upside down on a cake plate while still warm. A creamy egg mixture, which will have sunk to the bottom, will come out on top.

Moroccan Mint Tea

Serves 6

1 tbs green tea
5–6 cups boiling water
30–40 fresh spearmint sprigs
½ cup granulated sugar

Rinse the teapot with boiling water. Discard the water and add the tea leaves to the pot. Add the boiling 5–6 cups of water and steep for 2–3 minutes. Add the mint and sugar to taste. Let stand for 3–4 minutes. Strain and serve immediately. Usually, the tea was poured from a half foot or so above a glass. That caused the tea to make bubbles, which was the purpose as well as looking cool. ■

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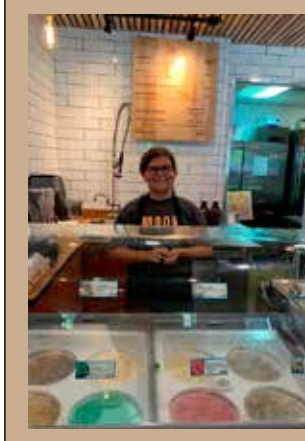

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Drinks and discussion

The Federation's 3rd annual Women's Philanthropy Schmooze & Booze was a great success, as it welcomed women from across the community for an energizing evening of community building and networking. The event provided a great mix of mingling with old friends and new, along with a couple seated discussion rounds. ■

Joelle Abramowitz, Katherine Chosid, Sharon Sorkin

Heidi Ruud, Lisa Markman, Sue Adler, Sierra Imwalle, Laurie Greenberg

Marci Feinberg, Marla Chinsky, Candace Bulkley, Marci Sukenic

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New Sefaria initiative will increase Jewish scholarly publications authored by women

Sefaria, the nonprofit organization that digitizes and freely shares Jewish texts in Hebrew and in translation, announced the launch of "Word-by-Word: A Jewish Women's Writing Circle," a new cohort program designed to increase and elevate Jewish scholarly publications authored by women. The 20 cohort members, who are all engaged in serious Torah scholarship, will receive writing support and guidance to complete books on Jewish texts that will contribute significantly to any Jewish library.

The program is led by Sara Wolkenfeld, Chief Learning Officer at Sefaria and a member of Class Six of the Wexner Field Fellowship, and Dr. Erica Brown, Vice Provost for Values and Leadership at Yeshiva University and the founding director of its Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks-Herenstein Center for Values and Leadership.

"It has always been a dream of mine to create a sisterhood of female writers who value Jewish texts and their teaching at the center of their lives. With Word-by-Word, we've realized that dream. We hope that each book expands the platform of Torah influence for each woman in this cohort," says Dr. Erica Brown. "Women Torah scholars are now entering the next serious phase of contribution when they occupy more shelf space."

Word-by-Word cohort members receive a three-year stipend to develop their talents through skill-based workshops, professional coaching, peer mentoring, an annual retreat, and networking opportunities with publishers and experienced authors. Book projects can range from commentaries on the Bible, Talmud, or related rabbinic literature; mysticism; or other text-based inquiries. The program is funded by Micah Philanthropies, Walder Foundation, and the Arev Fund.

"Beyond the support provided, we will create a close-knit community of skilled, deeply knowledgeable writers who can grow together," adds Sara Wolkenfeld. "This community will receive the support it warrants and deserves for a rich future of Jewish teaching and learning."

Sefaria is one of the most widely used tools for Jewish learning in the world, with reach and expertise that cohort members will access. Throughout the program, participants will refine their book proposals with the intended outcome of at least 15 books ready for publication from the cohort.

Sefaria is excited to welcome each Word-by-Word scholar:

Rabba Wendy Amsellem teaches at Yeshivat Maharat and directs the Beit Midrash Program, a joint project of Maharat and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. She received semikha from Maharat and is an alumna of the Drisha Scholars Circle and Harvard University. She is working on a book about trajectories of transformation in Tanakh, provisionally titled *Stories of Transformation in the Bible*.

Dr. Mijal Bitton is a Torah teacher, thought leader, and spiritual entrepreneur. She is the Rosh Kehilla of the Downtown Minyan, a sociologist specializing in American Jews, a Sacks Scholar, and a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. Mijal's book project, *Exodus Unveiled: A Roadmap for Traditional Readers Seeking Radical Revolution*, offers a traditional reading of the Exodus informed by modern revolutionary social movements.

Adina Blaustein lives in Beachwood, Ohio, and works for Aleph Beta as the Content Production Manager. Additionally, she serves as Yoetzet Halacha for Green Road Synagogue. Her book project, *Intertextual Insights: A Guide to the Weekly Haftarah*, focuses on the intertextual relationship haftarot have with the parashah.

Rachel Sharansky Danziger is a Jerusalem-based writer and educator who explores connections between Jewish texts, emotions, and the art of storytelling. She has taught at Matan, Ma'ayan, Pardes, Yeshivat Maharat, Torah in Motion and other venues. Her book, *Houses, Divided: Families and Fault Lines in The Book of Judges*, will examine the collapse of Israelite society in Judges through the lens of the book's family stories.

Rabba Yaffa Epstein serves as the Senior Scholar and Educator in Residence at The Jewish Education Project. An esteemed educator, she has taught rabbis, educators, and lay leaders from across the Jewish denominational spectrum. Her book, *Learning to Care: Deepening our Relationship with Talmudic Texts and Teachings*, will explore 10 core stories from the Babylonian Talmud, providing original in-depth textual analysis, and pedagogic methodology for teaching these texts in diverse learning environments.

Gila Fine is a lecturer in rabbinic literature at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, reading the tales of the Talmud through philosophy, literary criticism, psychoanalysis, and pop culture. She has served on the faculty of the London School of Jewish Studies, the Nachshon Project, the Bronfman Fellowship, and Amudim Seminary, and has taught thousands of students at conferences and communities across the Jewish world. Her book, *The Madwoman in the Rabbi's Attic: Rereading the Heroines of the Talmud*, explores the stories of the six named women of the Bavli, revealing there is a lot more to these heroines than initially meets the eye.

Rabbanit Anne Gordon is the deputy editor of Ops & Blogs at *The Times of Israel*. A veteran educator living in Jerusalem, she co-hosts both the daily podcast, Talking Talmud, and The Chochmat Nashim Podcast, as co-founder of the organization. Her book, *The Wise and Their Riddles: How the Sages Reimagine Proverbs*, is a study of the interplay between biblical and rabbinic literature.

Dr. Tammy Jacobowitz is the Tanakh department chair at SAR High School in Riverdale, New York and the founding director of Makom B'Siach, an immersive adult education program at SAR. Her book, *Vayikra: A New Guide for Parents and Children*, will offer adults and children access to the deep treasures in Vayikra by integrating midrash as a catalyst for interpretive thinking, creativity, and personal meaning-making.

Dr. Tamar Ron Marvin is a scholar, writer, and Jewish educator, trained as an intellectual historian of medieval and early modern Jewish studies. Her book project, *The Worlds of the Rishonim*, is a narrative history of Jewish life and thought during the formative medieval period based on primary sources.

Chaya Sara Oppenheim is pursuing a PhD in Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work focuses on American Jewish Orthodox culture, and she teaches and has written about the language, literature, and lifestyle of Jewish communities. Her book project, tentatively titled *A Grave Theology: Burial Grounds in Jewish Thought*, will draw on biblical and rabbinic sources to explore the rising interest in and implications of cemetery tourism.

Nechama Price is the Director of Yeshiva University's Graduate Program in Advanced Talmud and Tanach Studies for Women, a Senior Lecturer of Bible and Jewish Law at Stern College, and a Yoetzet Halacha in several communities in New Jersey. Her first book, *Tribal Blueprints*, analyzes the lives and personalities of the 12 tribes. Her forthcoming book, *Villains of the Torah*, will analyze the duality of the villainous characters of the Torah.

Rabbanit Leah Sarna is a member of the faculty and the Director of Teen Programs at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education. Trained at Migdal Oz, Yale University, and Yeshivat Maharat, she is an award-winning educator who has taught Torah in Orthodox synagogues and Jewish communal settings around the world. Her book project, *Begetting and Beginning: A Jewish Guide to Pregnancy, Birth, and the First Months of Parenthood*, aims to be the go-to resource for Jewishly observant expecting parents.

Dr. Rachel Scheinerman is the editor of My Jewish Learning and the creator of A Daily Dose of Talmud: Daf Yomi for Everyone. She holds a PhD in Ancient Judaism from Yale University. Her book project, *The Accidental Origins of the Seder*, will offer an accessible, scholarly introduction to the rabbis and a new and deeper understanding of Passover.

Dr. Shana Strauch Schick is a lecturer in Rabbinic Literature in the Multidisciplinary Department of Jewish Studies at Bar Ilan University and teaches Talmud and Jewish Law at Drisha Institute, New York. She is the author of *Intention in Talmudic Jurisprudence: Between Thought and Deed* (Brill, 2021). Her book project, *Women in Rabbinic Law and Narrative: Vying Currents in Babylonian and Palestinian Texts*, will explore contrasting views on the legal and communal status of women in the rabbinic societies of Babylonia and the Land of Israel during the Talmudic period.

Ilana Stein is a conservationist, writer, and educator. She writes for African conservation entities and is Head of Education for the Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning, where she lectures on Tanach, Jewish thought, and the vital relationship between Judaism and nature. In her book, *Ethics of Eden: The Meeting Point of Judaism, Environmental Ethics, and Wonder*, she will consider nature, the environment, and sustainability in Jewish thought and halakha.

Rabbanit Victoria Sutton teaches Judaic studies at the Heschel School. She served as the Director of Education and Community Engagement at Congregation Beth Israel, a Modern Orthodox synagogue in Berkeley. Her book project, *Sephardic Women's Halakhah & Minhag: Preserving & Deepening Traditions*, will explore and document the lived religious traditions and halakhic frameworks of Sephardic women.

Tamar Weissman is an educator and tour guide living in Sde Ilan, Israel. Her book on the 12 tribes of Israel, *Tribal Lands*, is accessible via Sefaria's database, and she is currently working on a book with Batnadiv HaKarmi on the petichtot of Megilat Esther. Her book project for Sefaria is tentatively titled *Israel's Adolescence: Essays on the Book of Judges* and focuses on Israel's coming-of-age story as told in the Book of Judges.

Sarah Wolf is Assistant Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary and a fellow of the Kogod Research Center at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. Her book, *Emotions in Rabbinic Law*, examines Late Antique rabbinic legal literature to uncover how emotions were defined, categorized, and regulated in rabbinic culture.

Ariella Zirkind is a proud Rebbetzin of the Riverdale Jewish Center in the Bronx, a Yeshiva University Stern College graduate with a degree in Judaics, and a certified Kallah teacher. Her book, *Choosing Niddah*, will present a hashkafic analysis of niddah through primary sources, hoping to close the gap between meticulous halachic observance and inspired Jewish living.

Rabbanit Devorah Zlochower is Senior Scholar and mashgicha ruchanit at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School. She has taught Talmud and Halakhah for 30 years and was a graduate of the first cohort of Drisha Institute's Scholars Circle. Her book examines five Talmudic sugyot in which women are the focal point, engaging with them from a biographical perspective. ■

Frankel Center 2023 graduates

The Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is celebrating the class of 2023, consisting of six minors, three majors, and four graduate certificate students. Several graduates will be continuing their education, teaching abroad, or seeking jobs in law, finance, medicine, veterinarian school, and nonprofit management.

Elizabeth Goldman is the recipient of the Judaic Studies Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in recognition of her exceptional academic performance and significant contribution to Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Alana Wilck was selected as the first runner-up for the award.

Frankel Center 2023 graduates from left to right: Elizabeth Goldman, Joseph Gordon, Yonit Robin, Jeremy Jesselson, Alana Wilck, Lennon Gelbsman, and Brandon Brooks

This year's Marshall Weinberg prize, given annually to an outstanding graduate student who is engaged in writing a dissertation, was awarded to Pavel Brunssen for his dissertation project, "The Making of 'Jew Clubs': Performing Jewishness and Antisemitism in European Soccer and Fan Cultures." The Frankel Center was especially impressed with the breadth, depth, and sophistication of Brunssen's research and writing, alongside his excellent publication record, with peer-reviewed articles and chapters, as well as books that he has authored and/or co-edited. Brunssen is an important contributor to the field of antisemitism studies, as well as to the study of Roma in film. The Marshall Weinberg Prize, established in 1995, provides support for students engaged in dissertation research that stands to make a significant impact on the field.

Dory Fox was awarded the Frankel Center's Michael S. Bernstein Dissertation Award for her original dissertation, "The Biological Imagination in Twentieth-Century Jewish American Culture." This compelling project explores the shifting biological theories of inheritance that have informed Jewish cultural production throughout the 20th century. Fox draws on American fiction, photography by Jewish artists, Yiddish poetry, and scientific discourse to reveal how the "biological imagination" has shaped interpretations of Jewishness, locating them in the body rather than in religious or scholarly sources. The committee was deeply impressed with Fox's interdisciplinary study of writers and artists who engaged with biological theories of inheritance, even in the post-Holocaust period. The Bernstein award, which comes with a $4,000 cash prize, was established to honor the memory of Michael Bernstein, a distinguished graduate of the University of Michigan.

In recognition of his exceptional contribution in his Yiddish classes, Ari Leflein is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award. Each year the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies presents the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award to a student enrolled in first or second year Yiddish whose classwork and commitment to Yiddish stands out.

The 2023 graduates join a distinguished group of Frankel Center alumni. We wish them the best of luck!

Class of 2023

Graduate Certificate
Pavel Brunssen
Hannah Roussel
Omri Senderowicz
Shai Zamir

Major
Elizabeth Goldman
Joseph Gordon
Alana Wilck

Minor
Brandon Brooks
Lennon Gelbsman
Alexandra Glickman
Jeremy Jesselson
Dahvi Lupovich
Yonit Robin

■

Collected poems of Irena Klepfisz

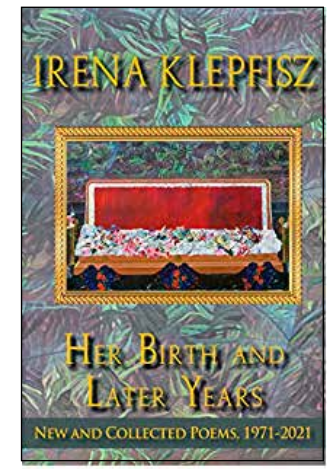
Her Birth and Later Years: New and Collected Poems, 1971–2021 by Irena Klepfisz (Wesleyan University Press, 2022) reviewed by Meg Bernstein

Irena Klepfisz's newest collection, *Her Birth and Later Years,* presents a career-spanning view of the indomitable poet and feminist scholar. In her poems, new and old alike, Klepfisz seeks the uncomfortable spaces that exist in the world as well as within us. The genius of Klepfisz's poetry lies in its ability to weave a tangible landscape of beauty and vulnerability, rich with vibrant color and the movement of light, and then to rip that vision away at the seams, exposing an internal landscape of devastation and doubt. The world she creates exists in dichotomy: sharp and soft, devastating and healing, English and Yiddish, whole and broken, love and indifference, romance and reality. But the poems she creates live in the space between the pairs, exploring the distance from one to the other.

Born in 1941 in the Warsaw Ghetto, Klepfisz lost her father to the ghetto uprising before she could form full sentences. This experience would set the tone for her life and become the backdrop for many of her poems. After moving to the United States in her youth with her widowed mother, Klepfisz attended a Yiddish primary and high school where she became proficient in Yiddish whilst maintaining her original Polish, the only language her mother would speak at home. This education instilled an indefatigable love of literature in the young Irena and enabled her to become a key figure both in the Yiddish and lesbian literary scenes of the 60s and 70s. In interviews she describes feeling not entirely at home in any language, a fact made evident in certain pieces like "*Etlekhe verter oyf mame-loshn*/A few words in the mother tongue." Here she moves from Yiddish to English, painting a poignant portrait of a life in between both worlds.

Klepfisz's poems, like much of her other work, are both personal and political, another dichotomy she uses to explore themes of identity, history, and social justice with nuance, depth, and a great deal of compassion. Raw with imagery that conveys a sea of emotional intelligence and attention to detail, they are poems of experience and exploration. Her most famous works, like "Bashert" (first published in 1982 in her collection *Keeper of Accounts*) and the previously mentioned piece, continue to devastate new readers and thus qualify their legacy, but even the most unassuming poems in this collection have the power to break open new fissures. The truth of them cuts deep into the most protected parts of the heart and carves out desires, memories, love you'd forgotten or hoped would stay hidden. This is true of her poems whether she writes about the Holocaust or the tragic death of friends, primates at the zoo, or her mother's couch. Each landscape unfolds fully actualized, opening the reader to new realizations of the world, leaving no experience unexamined.

Klepfisz's poetry possesses the rare power to inspire and accuse, to expose and bear witness, to humble and make holy the work of artists, lovers, radicals, Jews, queer folks, mothers, sisters, and readers of the written word. Her honesty demands the returned honesty of anyone who encounters her work. My fear is that, after having read this collection, I can no longer lead the life I have been, that now I will have to rededicate my life, as Rainer Maria Rilke also implored, to the creative task. Her words cut away the scar tissue of my life like an XActo knife, uncovering a longing I thought I had lost — but there it was, all along, hidden under the years of doubt, responsibility, and banality of American life. Now I must make good on my honesty, recover the loss, resume the transformation.



A Poem for Judy

beginning a new job

I will keep it simple
not give it
universal significance
nor transform it
into art

You say:
"I will not do this
forever. I *will* paint."

I've learned now
that it's no solace
to point out the others
so many others
straining wasting
unable to do
what they know
they must do

for such loss
is always solitary
and unshared
outside the scope
of bloodless theory.

You do not paint
and what must happen
does not happen:
the transformation
on the empty canvas
of the elusive marble
into the shadowy water
or of the simple water
into impenetrable rock

and nothing
nothing
not even a loving embrace
nor special intimate
midnight talk
will ever make up
or diminish
that loss
for you
or for her
or her
or her

or her.

■

Sweet, salt, sour, and umami on full display

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b'nai mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

Basil Babe, located in Ypsilanti in the former Tower Inn space, started as a pop-up that appeared regularly at York and the HOMES campus over the last couple of years. Their inventive and delicious dumplings earned them a cult-like following. Earlier this year, mother-daughter duo Vasanna and Haluthai Inhmathong found their own spot, kitty corner from Pease Auditorium, where they serve authentic Thai flavors to hungry diners five days a week.

We were tempted to try one of everything on the menu, but Basil Babe earned their reputation creating fantastic dumplings. That's where we started and where our love affair began. On the evening of our visit, two types of dumplings were offered — we ordered both. The Mushie Mode dumplings were vegan and filled with a fresh tasting mixture of mushrooms, onion, and bok choy. This filling was absolutely delicious, and our tasters appreciated that the individual vegetables were easily recognizable in taste and appearance. The chicken in the chicken red curry dumplings was coated in a deeply flavored red curry paste which was cooked with lime leaf, coconut milk, and bell pepper. The flavors were savory, complex, and deemed outstanding. Both types of dumplings were served with delicious b.b. sweet chili sauce and crispy fried shallots.

The papaya salad was a colorful and spicy interlude in our meal. Shredded green papaya, crunchy carrots, fresh green beans, and tomato were dressed in a sweet and spicy dressing. This traditional Thai salad was accompanied with a straw basket containing sticky rice. Not understanding the purpose of the rice, we inquired, and our server instructed us to use it as a utensil to pick up the salad and mop up the flavorful fish sauce based dressing with it, which we did! The traditional building blocks of Thai cooking, sweet, salt, sour, and umami, are on full display in this refreshing yet spicy salad.

Our diners asked for and took the advice from our server when it came to ordering one of our entrees. Their suggestion and absolute favorite was the eggplant stir-fry. We ordered it and were not led astray. This dish was fresh and light — not an oil laden stir-fry as they can tend to be. Perfectly tender Chinese eggplant and bell peppers were expertly stir-fried with garlic, bird's eye chili, fragrant Thai basil, and a spicy oyster sauce, served with jasmine rice. This dish was a game changer for an eggplant-averse dining companion and illustrates that sometimes you are rewarded for stepping out of your comfort zone when dining out. Our group felt obligated to sample pad thai, the dish many people think of first when going to a Thai restaurant. The Basil Babe version was head and shoulders above others we have eaten. A subtly sweet and complex tamarind sauce clung to perfectly cooked rice noodles, egg, bean sprouts, and onion, and was topped with the customary chopped peanuts and a squeeze of lime. The balance of flavors was outstanding with none upstaging the other.

Without guilt or regret, we sampled both desserts offered on the night we visited. Cocosquash was the ultimate comfort food — tapioca pearls in a warm sweet/salty coconut sauce topped with pieces of kabocha squash. It was the dessert version of a warm hug. The coconut pandan pudding was served in a set of three petite bowls and was perfect for sharing. This unusual yet tasty two-layer pudding consisted of a bottom layer of pandan (a tropical plant with a flavor compared to a grassy vanilla with a hint of coconut) mixed with a rice flour mixture similar to mochi and topped with a thin yet rich layer of coconut custard. Delicious.

As a new restaurant, Basil Babe is adopting some of the more recent trends in dining. Upon arrival, diners need to scan a QR code on their device (hard copies of the menu are available at the register where you place your order before being seated). The team working at the registers were very helpful with answering questions and offering recommendations, and although the restaurant was busy, we were not rushed along. Once you order, you can be seated with a number on your table and dishes are brought out in appropriate order. Servers will also bring carafes of water to the table and are attentive to any need. The night of our visit was a busy Saturday with a steady flow of traffic but there was plenty of room in the airy space.

The menu is concise. There are many choices available to suit a variety of diets and palates. Gluten-free and vegan options are marked. We would have liked to see clear and consistent indications of allergens like fish, but the staff are happy to answer questions. The menu changes weekly and the current offerings can be found on their web site. Hours may fluctuate — check online or give them a call before you head out. Parking on the street in front is free after 6 p.m. on weekdays, and all day on weekends.

Basil Babe
701 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti
734-487-4000
www.basil-babe.com ■

TBE events in June

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, locations information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut and Rabbi Whinston to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and ageappropriate learning for children ages 0–5.

Shabbat Service
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings
Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Daily afternoon blessings
Mondays through Thursdays at 3 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon for an intimate short service.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah
Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Cantor Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org for details and with questions.

Women's Torah Study
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club with Cantor Hayut
Thursdays at 11 a.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

Gun Violence Prevention Shabbat
Friday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.
Part of June for Justice. Congregants are encouraged to wear something orange to the service. Orange ribbons (to pin on clothing) will be provided outside the sanctuary. Guest speaker: Dr. Alytia Levendosky, a TBE congregant and Professor of Psychology at MSU. We will blow the shofar at the service as a call for action to end gun violence. 7:30 p.m.

TBE Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.

Elementary Shabbat Service and Dinner
Friday, June 9, 5:45 p.m.
Join Cantor Hayut to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 5–10. Registration requested.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, June 9, 6 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming! In order to make sure we can feed everyone, please respond to this survey (https://bit.ly/tbelgbtq) or email Ariane Smith at brariane@umich.edu with the dish you're planning to bring.

Pride Shabbat
Friday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.
Part of June for Justice

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle
Monday, June 19, 5 p.m.

Shabbat Service Honoring JFS and Refugee Resettlement
Friday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.
Part of June for Justice

Climate Action Shabbat
Friday, June 30, 7:30 p.m.
Part of June for Justice ■

Local ketamine clinic for treatment-resistant depression

By Janet Greenhut, special to the WJN

It's been known for some time that traditional antidepressants such as SSRIs do not help a significant proportion of people with depression. Patients who aren't helped often go on to try one type of medication after another and usually end up on multiple medications. Some patients find little to no benefit even with these combinations and their depression is considered treatment-resistant.

Researchers have been looking into possible alternative treatments for people with treatment-resistant depression (TRD). An active area of recent research has been with psychedelics. One of them, ketamine, has been shown to be effective for TRD in multiple studies and is now approved by the FDA in its nasal spray form.

Ketamine was developed about 60 years ago and was approved as a general anesthetic in 1970. Its antidepressant effect was discovered in 1975, and, starting around 2000, researchers began to study its usefulness for patients. They found that at doses lower than used in anesthesia, ketamine had a positive effect on depressive symptoms compared to placebo. Ketamine reduced or eliminated depressive symptoms in hours to days, much more rapidly than any other kind of antidepressant treatment, which usually take weeks to show an effect.

The first, and so far only, FDA-approved ketamine formulation for TRD in the United States is the nasal spray Spravato. It must be administered in a certified treatment center staffed by healthcare personnel, and patients must be monitored for two hours after treatment.

Other forms of ketamine are also available and can be prescribed by clinicians off-label. Alternatives to Spravato are IV infusion, intramuscular injection, and oral ketamine. Ketamine treatment centers have sprung up all over southeastern Michigan. The types of health care providers in these centers can vary. Many are started by anesthesiologists, other medical specialists, or social workers. Some telepsychiatry providers prescribe oral ketamine to patients with TRD. Ketamine-assisted psychotherapy may or may not be offered as part of treatment.

One of the local ketamine treatment centers in Ann Arbor is the Alessi Psychiatry & Life Center, founded by Norman Alessi, M.D. Before starting the center in 2022, Dr. Alessi was on the faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan Medicine for over 40 years where he was head of the child and adolescent psychiatry service, as well as working in private practice and community mental health. He became interested in the use of psychedelics in the treatment of mental illness a couple years ago and has been trained in the use of ketamine and ketamine-assisted psychotherapy.

Dr. Alessi treats patients with TRD, PTSD, and depression related to bipolar disorder. During a patient's first visit, Dr. Alessi confirms that the patient's condition is truly non-responsive to medications at adequate doses, as opposed to a situation of under-treatment, in which case the patient would be referred for traditional care. If ketamine treatment is indicated and the patient wishes to proceed, the process is explained to the patient and an infusion schedule is set up.

Each IV infusion takes about 40 minutes. The dosage given is according to protocol based on the patient's weight. Dr. Alessi stays with the patient during the infusion to help the patient process their physical and psychological reactions to the infusion as it's happening. This is especially necessary if there is a history of trauma.

Physical reactions to ketamine infusion for depression or PTSD can include dissociation with numbness in arms or legs, or one's whole body (patients describe this as "floating"); distorted vision; altered colors or sounds, or altered time perception; dizziness; nausea; sedation; vertigo; increased blood pressure; and vomiting. Serious side effects are rare.

Many patients feel their depression improving or completely lifting during the first infusion. It may also happen within hours or days after an infusion. Some patients describe the experience as transformative and lifesaving. However, depressive symptoms almost always return days or weeks later, so repeat infusions are necessary to maintain the antidepressant effect. Ketamine is not a cure for depression. Patients generally need to continue at least some of their antidepressant medications while receiving the infusions. Not all patients respond to ketamine treatment.

The schedule for regular infusions is different for each patient; typical intervals are two to four weeks apart. There has been no evidence of the development of tolerance to the effects of ketamine when it's administered this way. Patients have been treated with ketamine for as long as six years. So far, no long-term side effects have emerged. It's possible that people who respond to it may need to use it indefinitely. The potential for abuse appears to be greatest for patients who take oral ketamine.

Dr. Alessi pairs the infusions with psychotherapy sessions, which can help a patient gain insight into how depression has affected their life. He believes that ketamine uncovers the unconscious and helps to surface repressed memories. Patients need a trained psychotherapist to help them process these memories and feelings. He has seen patients make significant changes in their lives as ketamine therapy gives them the ability to step back and examine their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors from a new vantage point. They gain a renewed sense of self, sense of self-in-the-world, and ability to project themselves into the future, according to Dr. Alessi. These changes can have a profound effect on a person's life.

Research has shown that if traumatic memories are evoked during treatment with ketamine, it is possible to weaken the consolidation of maladaptive memories of the traumatic event. This would benefit patients suffering from PTSD.

Ketamine has a striking effect on neurons in the brain. In people subject to chronic stress, including depression, the connections between neurons (synapses) are reduced, like a tree that's been pruned. Ketamine helps promote the growth of new synapses. The magnitude of synaptic growth appears to correlate with the clinical response.

Health insurance does not cover ketamine infusions, though some plans may partially cover Spravato treatment. Payment is usually out-of-pocket. Anyone considering ketamine therapy should verify the providers' credentials and expertise before starting treatment.

Ketamine research has opened up a new approach for treating depression and possibly other psychiatric illnesses. In addition to TRD, there is ongoing research into its effect on PTSD and chronic pain. Other psychedelics, such as psilocybin and MDMA are also being studied for their usefulness for these conditions. ■

JFS expands aging and caregiver services to meet community need

By Jill Kind, Director of WISE Aging Services at JFS

Aging. Everyone's doing it.

A recent event at Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) started with an icebreaker asking everyone in the room, "How old do you feel?" All but a couple of the very stalwart shaved about 20% off their actual age, some even more. Recent research bears this out: Few of us feel our age. Another way to look at it is that most of us don't believe our age defines us.

JFS' WISE (Washtenaw Integrated Senior Experience) Aging and Caregiving services offers older adults in Washtenaw County support and expertise in negotiating the challenges that come with aging, but not simply as an "old" person. Each of our clients is a whole person — with a history and a future. Age is only one part of the total package.

This approach is exemplified in our services. Every older adult brings a unique constellation of challenges and strengths; one size doesn't fit all. WISE responds in kind, with services designed to enable older adults to participate and benefit in the way that suits them.

Would it be easier to ask for information or help from someone who is active in your congregation? WISE has a social worker who has office hours and a strong presence in local congregations. Another older adult might enjoy social and educational programming with WISE at the J with the option of sharing a kosher meal with others. This is a great way to meet WISE staff and learn about a specific interest, community resources, or special events. After a long period of staying home, many of us are happy to get out and get together for musical presentations, games and art projects, and intergenerational opportunities.

The WISE professional team also holds regular support groups on topics of interest to our clients. One of our most popular groups is Aging Solo, intended for members who don't have family or support in the area. Other groups concentrate on caregiver issues and skills or bereavement. New to WISE this spring are workshops and individual consultations related to end-of-life issues for older adults who are thinking about advance directives, health care, and end-of-life planning. And, with the warm weather, the Summer Strolls group resumes, offering older adults the benefits of community and fresh air with group walks in nature.

For those who require immediate and concentrated help to navigate life's complexities, WISE offers two pathways for help — WISE Safety Net services or WISE Choice. The first, Safety Net services, is designed to help older adults with low incomes find and utilize the basic services that support independent living — through JFS Nutrition Services, Transportation, or Thrive Counseling, or through other community-based services that are identified by a JFS Care Manager. WISE Safety Net services are available at no or low cost to clients. WISE Choice is a fee-for-service program matching clients with a care manager who assesses, designs, and implements a set of services customized for each family or individual. With WISE Choice, JFS care professionals help families meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of older adults and their caregivers through care management, companionship, and a wide array of support services.

Whether utilizing WISE Choice or Safety Net services, all older adults receive caring, respectful help to develop a plan to meet individual goals and achieve support. WISE provides both in-person and virtual assistance. Caregivers are also critically important to WISE, whether they are older adults themselves or caring for an older adult. Services designed to reduce stress and increase coping skills include individual consultation and planning, support groups, and in-home respite.

WISE works to help older adults live their best lives. If someone you know could benefit from WISE, contact JFS directly by telephone at 734-760-0209 or online at https://form.jotform.com/JFSannarbor/universal-screening. You can learn more about WISE by visiting https://www.wisemich.org. If you would like to support WISE Aging Services, please consider making a financial contribution or donating your time as a volunteer. ■

Wise.
LIVE CONNECTED
AGE WISELY

Calendar

JUNE 2023

As our community eases into in-person events with sensitivity to changing pandemic safety, always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

Thursday 1

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

3rd Annual Social Action Committee Congregational Read: TBE. Join the TBE Social Action Committee for our annual congregational read, Braiding Sweetgrass by Potawatomi author Robin Wall Kimmerer, which weaves together indigenous knowledge with science in a moment of climate urgency. Registration requested. In person and Online. 7 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 2

Candle Lighting 8:47 p.m. Naso

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. Welcome Shabbat at the JCC. Dinner from a local restaurant follows a short observance that includes secular readings, songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children are welcome. Dinner is free for JCS members. The cost of dinner for non-members is $10/person or $25/family. Registration required: www.jewishculturalsociety.org. 6:30 p.m.

Gun Violence Prevention Shabbat: TBE. Part of June for Justice. Congregants are encouraged to wear something orange to the service. Orange ribbons (to pin on clothing) will be provided outside the sanctuary. Guest speaker: Dr. Alytia Levendosky, a TBE congregant and Professor of Psychology at MSU. We will blow the shofar at the service as a call for action to end gun violence. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 3

Havdallah 9:58 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 4

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

AARC Book Group. Potluck lunch at a member's house. We will discuss ***My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Family's Past*** by Ariel Sabar. Lunch. 12:15 – 1 p.m. Hybrid discussion (in person and on Zoom) 1 – 2 p.m.

Israel 75 Live with Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt: Federation. "In the Land of Milk and Funny." In person only at the JCC. 6 p.m.

Monday 5

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 6

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 7

Yiddish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 8

Summer Stroll. Gallup Park Ramble Trail meet at Centennial Playground Park. 10:30 a.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 9

Candle Lighting 8:52 p.m. Behaalotecha

Elementary Shabbat and Dinner: TBE. Ages 5–10. Registration requested. $5 per person. 5:45 p.m.

Camp Style Shabbat: BIC. Join us for a family-friendly dinner for all sponsored by the Kress Family. Come enjoy a pasta bar dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by the Friday evening service at 6:15 p.m. featuring Rav Nadav on the bimah and Rachel Lawrence-Lupton on guitar. Cap the night off with a sundae bar for dessert after services. All are welcome to this free event. Please register on the Beth Israel website (bethisrael-aa.org). 5:45 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck: TBE. Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming! Registration requested.

Pride Shabbat: TBE. Part of June for Justice. 7:30 p.m.

Second Friday Schmooze: JCS. Architects/urban planners Norm and Ilene Tyler will ask "Why Do I Like This Place?" At the JCC. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 10

Havdallah 10:03 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service. AARC at the JCC. At the JCC, Dylan Schnorr's bar mitzvah. Everyone is welcome! Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Sunday 11

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Top of the Park Jewish Meetup: Fed. 5 p.m.

Monday 12

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 13

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 14

Yiddish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Terry Swartzberg: Stolpersteine and Jewish Life in Germany: BIC. Beth Israel welcomes Terry Swartzberg to discuss the Stolpersteine ("stumbling blocks") – the world's project of Holocaust commemoration which consists of over 100,000 side-walk level plaques in 1800 cities in 31 European countries. These plaques have been placed in front of the homes of victims of the Holocaust. Terry will also speak about his experiences living in Germany. 6:30 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 15

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Concert for Ukraine: Isaac Meadow plays concert at Zion Lutheran Church. 6 p.m.

Meet the Artist Andy Schiff at the Amster Gallery: JCC. Come explore Andy's work while enjoying light refreshments. 6 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 16

Candle Lighting 8:55 p.m. Shlach

WTBE Gift Shop Open for In-Person Shopping: TBE. Washtenaw County's Only Judaica Shop! 6–7:30 p.m.

Saturday 17

Havdallah 10:06 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Study Session on the Shema: PH. 3 p.m.

Sunday 18

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Monday 19

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Online Minyan: PH. 9 a.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle: TBE. In person and on Zoom. 5:30 p.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz Circle: PH. 7 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 20

20 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 21

Yiddish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 22

Summer Stroll. Matthaei Botanical Garden meet at the Visitor's Center Entrance. 10:30 a.m.

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 23

Candle Lighting 8:57 p.m. Korach

WTBE Gift shop open for In-person shopping: TBE. In the TBE Gift Shop. 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Home Shabbat: From the Rabbi's Table to Yours: BIC. Join Rav Nadav and his family for Kabbalat Shabbat service over Zoom (only) from their Shabbat table to yours on the last Friday of each month. Join us early at 5:40 p.m. for conversation and visiting. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service Honoring JFS and Refugee Resettlement: TBE. Part of June for Justice. 7:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. AARC. In person at the JCC and on Zoom. This is a hybrid service led by members of the congregation. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday24

Havdallah 10:08 p.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion. 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Sunday 25

Tanya: Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. 11 a.m.

Monday 26

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 5:45 p.m.

Women's Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 27

Twenty-five-minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah: TBE. For inquiries, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org. 6:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Wednesday 28

Yiddish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

Thursday 29

Cantor's (Jewish) Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Talmud: Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m.

Friday 30

Candle Lighting 8:57 p.m. Chukat-Balak

WTBE Gift shop open for In-person shopping: TBE. In the TBE Gift Shop. 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Climate Action Shabbat: TBE. Part of June for Justice. 7:30 p.m.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat: BIC. A Jewish Renewal inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. All are welcome to attend. 6 p.m. ■

Obituaries

The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.

Alfred Gourdji, our beloved father and husband, passed away peacefully at home on April 12, surrounded by family after many years of declining health. He was born in 1936 in Tehran, Iran, to Iraqi Jewish parents from Baghdad as the third surviving son in the family. He grew

up speaking Arabic at home, Farsi on the street, and English in school. Along with his three siblings and other children from many different cultures and nationalities, he attended the Community School in Tehran, an American Presbyterian mission school where he learned respect for people from different backgrounds and the power of forgiveness and praye

In 1955, he immigrated to the United States to attend university, first at Wayne State and then transferring to New York University. He studied accounting while washing dishes to put himself through school and living with his sister's family in Queens. In 1969, he met his future wife, Judith Mike, when they were both working in the same public accounting firm in New York City. He convinced her to go on a date after assisting her in carrying home a new suite of luggage several blocks to her apartment. They married in 1970, with Alfred being the first among his siblings to not marry his cousin! Judy and Alfred's children Jeffrey and Sharon were born in 1972 and 1975.

In 1977, the family relocated to Midland, Michigan, where Alfred accepted a job as the Corporate Tax Director for the Dow Corning Corporation. He remained at Dow for the rest of his career.

After retirement, Judy and Alfred relocated to Ann Arbor, where he became active in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Temple Beth Emeth, and their condo association. He served as OLLI's president for one year and chair of the Distinguished Lectures committee for at least 10 years. He worked tirelessly to recruit interesting speakers for the series, recently renamed as the Alfred Gourdji Distinguished Lecture Series. A lifelong fan of history, he developed and taught two courses for OLLI related to U.S.-Iran relations and the history of the Middle East after World War I, including the development of the Balfour Declaration. He had a lifelong fondness for his cultural heritage in the Middle East, reading deeply about political topics in the region and with a deep concern for Israel. He was also a great cook who loved to prepare his favorite Iraqi and Persian dishes.

Alfred will be remembered as a deeply compassionate, gentle, courageous, and intelligent man who had a unique ability to relate to people from many different walks of life and who cared deeply for his family and others he came into contact with. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Survivors include Judith Gourdji, Jeffrey Gourdji and Susan Gradman, Sharon Gourdji, grandsons Benjamin, Joshua, and Evan Gourdji, and nine nieces and nephews (Gracie, Patty, Lucy, Allan, Glen, Frannie, Donnie, David, and Michael) and their families across the U.S. and Canada. The last surviving member of his birth family, he was predeceased by his parents Yehuda and Muzli and siblings Edward, Albert, and Gertrude and their spouses Marguerite, Daisy, and Naim.

Mary Lloyd Robb died in her home in Beaumont in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on April 22, surrounded by her family. She was 88.

Known to all as Minney, she lived her values every day with her family, friends, and community service. She was a lifelong learner, an avid reader and member of multiple book groups, an energetic traveler, a sailor, a tennis player, and a lover of the outdoors.

She had six children in her first marriage to George R. Packard. His work in the U.S. Army, as a graduate student, and later as special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Japan took her to Japan three times from 1957–1965. She learned to speak Japanese, studied cultural arts, and helped entertain at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. She maintained her proficiency of the language and a love of Japan all her life, and she treasured her life-

long friendships from her years there.

After life in Japan and suburban Washington, D.C., the family settled in Villanova, Pennsylvania. Minney served on the Lower Merion School Board for seven years, first appointed and then elected. Other community activities included service on the Board of Directors for Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania and on the Board of Trustees for St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island.

She married Edwin G. "Ted" Robb in 1978, and travelled extensively with him in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. They were married for 42 years until his death in 2021. They regularly visited the families of her six children and his three in Tokyo, California, Washington, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. They spent time with extended family every summer in the Adirondacks. She relished the canoe adventures, sailboat races, hikes in the woods, picnics on the dock, and campfire evenings with grandchildren.

At the end of each year, she would ask each grandchild to send her the name of a nonprofit cause they supported, and then she would donate money to all of those organizations.

Minney was the third of the four children of Gates and Lallie Lloyd of Haverford, Pennsylvania. She was educated at Agnes Irwin School, Miss Porter's School, Vassar, and several other colleges. She once drove the family jeep to the White House for an MPS alumnae event hosted by First Lady Jackie Kennedy.

She was predeceased by her brother Terry Lloyd. She is survived by her older brother Wingate Lloyd (Janet) of Lexington, Massachusetts; younger sister Prue Rosenthal of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and sister-in-law Ellen Lloyd. She is survived by her six children: Frank Packard (Keiko) of Tokyo; Wingate Packard (David Takami) of Kenmore, Washington; Will Packard (Nancy) of Arlington, Virginia; Andrew Packard (Tricia Zimmerman) of Petaluma, California; Ben Packard (Julie) of Seattle; Alexander Packard (Alison) of Brookline, Massachusetts; and 14 beloved grandchildren. She is also survived by Graham Robb (Betsy) of Philadelphia; Xander Robb of Costa Rica; Karl Carter of Newtown, Pennsylvania; three stepgrandchildren; and a large extended family.

Bertha (Dottie) Berman, age 99, of Regent Square in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and more recently of Shelburne, Vermont, passed on the morning of May 2, surrounded by her loving family and caregivers. She was the daughter of the late Eva and William Tolchinsky, and the devoted and loving wife of the late Matt (Mathias) Berman, the love of her life for 60 years. Dottie was the treasured mother of Ellen (Robert) Dobrusin of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Wendy (Michael) Pelletier of Essex, Vermont.

She was the loving grandmother of Robert Pelletier (Samantha) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Avi Dobrusin of St. Louis, Missouri, Katherine Pelletier (Kenneth Davenport) of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and Mickie Dobrusin of Ann Arbor, Michigan. She took joy in being a great grandmother to Cole Parker Pelletier. Dottie was the sister of the late Harry Tolchinsky and Betty Aptaker and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She had a special loving relationship with her dedicated caregivers Dhyanna Lucia, Emily Germain, and Peggy Trombley. She loved her Shelburne Bay aides, especially Marie-Claire, Mary Margo, Sam, and John. Dottie was a proud native Pittsburgher who truly loved the city and was an enthusiastic fan of the Pirates and Steelers. Dottie was an excellent student and athlete and a proud graduate of Taylor Allderdice High School. She defied barriers to women and built a strong career starting as a legal secretary with the National Labor Relations Board. She later worked for many years at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

Dottie was respected and appreciated by her coworkers and supervisors for her exceptional work and dedication. She was known for her kindness and her dry sense of humor. She loved to cook all her favorite recipes and eat chocolate whenever possible. She loved movies, music, dancing, gardening, and travel. Dottie enjoyed going with Matt and the girls to their weekend retreat in Mill Run, Pennsylvania. She will be forever loved and remembered. Graveside Services and Interment will be held on Monday, May 8, at 1 p.m. at Homewood Cemetery. Donations may be made in her memory to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens (phipps.conservatory.org) or Animal Friends of Allegheny County (thinkingoutsidethecage.org).

Martha Sandoz Oleinick, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died May 5. She is survived by her sister, Loree Sandoz (Richard) Sloggett, her sons, Jonathan and Lewis Oleinick, and her daughter, Susan (Charles) Shapiro, and her many grandchildren. She is predeceased by her brothers, Frank and James, and her firstborn son, Robert.

Martha came to Ann Arbor after graduating from Reed College in the late 1950s. She gradu-

ated from the University of Michigan and, like many, found her way back to Ann Arbor, where she made her home for the remainder of her life. Martha's last days were spent surrounded by family and people who have grown to be like family, from everyone at Gilbert Residence (a wonderful not-for-profit senior living facility in Ypsilanti) and the good people at Arbor Hospice, and the Jewish Chaplaincy Network of Detroit who helped make Mom's final days meaningful. Of course, her beloved rabbi, Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Israel Congregation, Robert Dobrusin, continued as a wonderful friend to our mother and grandmother, visiting Martha regularly and providing the family updates.

In true Martha style, she left us with an Important Papers folder that included, it turns out, the perfect source material for her eulogy, service, and obituary. One of the most unique pieces was her ethical will. She, and my father, Dr. Arthur Oleinick, imparted to their children the importance of considering the lasting impact of our actions on others. Her action, and foresight, of putting together the collection of papers enabled her children to read at her bedside and were a source for her eulogy.

Her reminders to us of what is most important to her as her legacy has supplied unbelievable support to her children and grandchildren

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June for Justice at TBE

By Cantor Regina Hayut, Temple Beth Emeth

For the past several years, Temple Beth Emeth has been dedicating the Friday evening Shabbat services in the month of June to important issues of social justice.

This year, once again, we have the opportunity to inspire, teach, and create greater awareness around the important issues of our day more than ever before.

The themes of the services follow the format that has been established only a few short years ago:

These Shabbat services are more than just themes; they are a reminder of who we are as a community and the issues we what we care about. Each of these themed services has been created by a team of volunteers who have sought special readings, speakers, and music to help create a meaningful and spiritual experience focused on awareness and action.

To help you understand what each service will be about, here are brief descriptions:

June 2: Wear Orange began on June 2, 2015 — what would have been Hadiya Pendleton's 18th birthday, two years after she marched at President Obama's second inauguration and then was shot and killed only one week later.

Orange, a color worn by hunters in the woods to protect themselves, has become the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement. The color orange honors the more than 120 lives cut short and the hundreds more wounded by gun violence every day.

As the Wear Orange movement pushes on into its ninth year, the leaders of this service have selected the theme of "honor with action." The readings will highlight many ways to honor those people who lost their lives to gun violence by taking action.

To that end, the congregation will hear from Dr. Alytia Levendosky, a TBE congregant and MSU Professor of Psychology, who will speak about counseling students after the MSU shooting.

June 9: Pride Shabbat will be far more than merely a lovely service with meaningful readings and music. It will be an evening full of celebration of Pride and community. The evening will begin with the monthly LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck dinner at 6 p.m. At the dinner, attendees will have the opportunity to make a square for the Identity Quilt alongside other queer members of the congregation. To add to the beauty of the music during the service, the Out Loud Choir will be returning for the first time since the start of the COVID pandemic. Afterwards, at the Oneg Shabbat (post service dessert reception), there will be the opportunity to write notes for the attendees of Camp Indigo Point, a Jewish summer camp for LGBTQ youth.

June 23: Refugee Shabbat will honor TBE's work with Jewish Family Services (JFS) and Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement (JCOR) in sponsoring an immigrant family from Colombia. As part of this Shabbat service, we are asking our congregants to share their immigrant stories, either from their own experiences or those of their parents or (great) grandparents. What was it like to come to America? What were the joys and woes? Is there a funny story to tell? A tragic story? We are a nation of immigrants, and we tell our stories to understand what it's like to leave one's birthplace and make a new home in this strange, new land.

June 30: Climate Action Shabbat service will be led by TBE's Dayenu Circle, the group focused on taking action to combat climate change. We see climate change as the biggest crisis of our era, with long-lasting and irreversible impacts, especially to lower-income communities around the world. This service seeks to make the connection between our religious obligation to care for the earth and the spiritual beauty of nature. Members of the Dayenu Circle will lead the service and include special readings to amplify that message. Attendees will also receive practical action steps they can take to help make our earth more sustainable, in the spirit of climate justice and renewal.

While every Shabbat service is important, unique, and meaningful, we at TBE are very proud to add that little extra something all through the month of June to help our community be as impactful as possible to affect change in our world wherever and whenever needed.

Please join us all month long. Everyone is welcome. ■

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throughout this difficult time. Her positivity and optimism are, these days, a radical act of defiance. She remained full of kindness and smiles until the day she died. She ascribed her incredible pleasant disposition to simply fulfilling the commandment in the Torah to be joyful.

The analogy that Martha used frequently throughout her life is that of "the half-glass of water": the person who views it as half-full (the optimist) may very well be happier than the individual who views it as half-empty. Similarly, a person can look at a rose as a beautiful flower or as a delivery for thorns. Mom made sure her children and grandchildren are "glass-half-full people."

Martha brought the "glass-half-full" disposition to the many community service and professional roles she held throughout her life: working with her M.A. in Sociology at the National Institute of Health, during her presidencies of both Beth Israel Congregation's Sisterhood and the Ann Arbor Chapter of Hadassah, to her longtime professional contributions to our synagogue as the synagogue administrator from the mid-1980s to the early 2000s, and to her life's work, her children and grandchildren. ■

New Jews of Color network in Washtenaw

By Deborah Meyers Greene

West Bloomfield has one, Chicago has at least one, New York City has several, along with countless other cities and towns in the United States. Now Washtenaw will, too.

A Jews of Color network of greater Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County is getting together and, if you self-identify as a Jew of Color or BIPOC Jew, you are encouraged to check it out. Affiliated with a congregation or not; observant or not; GenZ, Millennial, GenX, Boomers, and Silent Generation — all are welcome.

Why? Because we are here and getting together is good.

It is fair to guess that 800–1000 Jews of Color live in the greater Ann Arbor area.

The 2021 Pew Research Center study of Jewish Americans in 2020 found that 15% of Jewish adults in the United States under 30 years old are Hispanic, Black, Asian, another nonwhite race or multiracial; 12% among ages 30 to 39; 4% among ages 50 to 64; and 3% of Jews 65 and older are nonwhite.

Beyond the Count, a 2021 national survey commissioned by the Jews of Color Initiative, found that a preponderance of respondents, 46%, said it was very important to be able to talk about the experience of being a Jew of Color with other Jews of Color. However, 36% of them had no such friends. Together, we can do something about that for each other.

Regional and national profile organizations like the Jews of Color Initiative, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Edot, the Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity and Racial Justice Collaborative, have determined that peer networks provide critical opportunities for Jews of Color to find mutual support, information, and awareness, or to simply socialize.

So, let's get started.Connect at jewsofcolorwashtenaw.org. Let us know who you are, what's on your mind, what sort of activities or events you're interested in, and when you typically would be available to get together.

Let's talk about it. ■

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to:

Marty (Kathy) Ludington on the death of his sister Linda Ludington. April 5.
Judy Gourdji on the death of her husband Alfred Gourdji. April 12.
Adam Mitchel and Marla (Joshua) Linderman-Richelew on the death of their mother Ronnie Pikstein, grandmother of Aviva, Yakirah, Zenah, Joshua, and Naomi. April 13.
Paul Share on the death of his father, Harvey Aaron Share. April 23.
Prue Rosenthal on the death of her sister, Mary Lloyd Robb.
The family of Bennett Stark on his death. April 30.
Ellen Dobrusin on the death of her mother, Dottie Berman. May 2.
The family of Martha Oleinick on her death. May 5.
Elisabeth Weinstein on the death of her mother, Bonnie Weinstein. May 8.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Dylan Schnorr on his bar mitzvah. June 10.

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